



Inside

Special Expose:

**ARE THE REFEREES
PROTECTING BOB BACKLUND?**

January 1979
47727 \$1.00

Wrestling

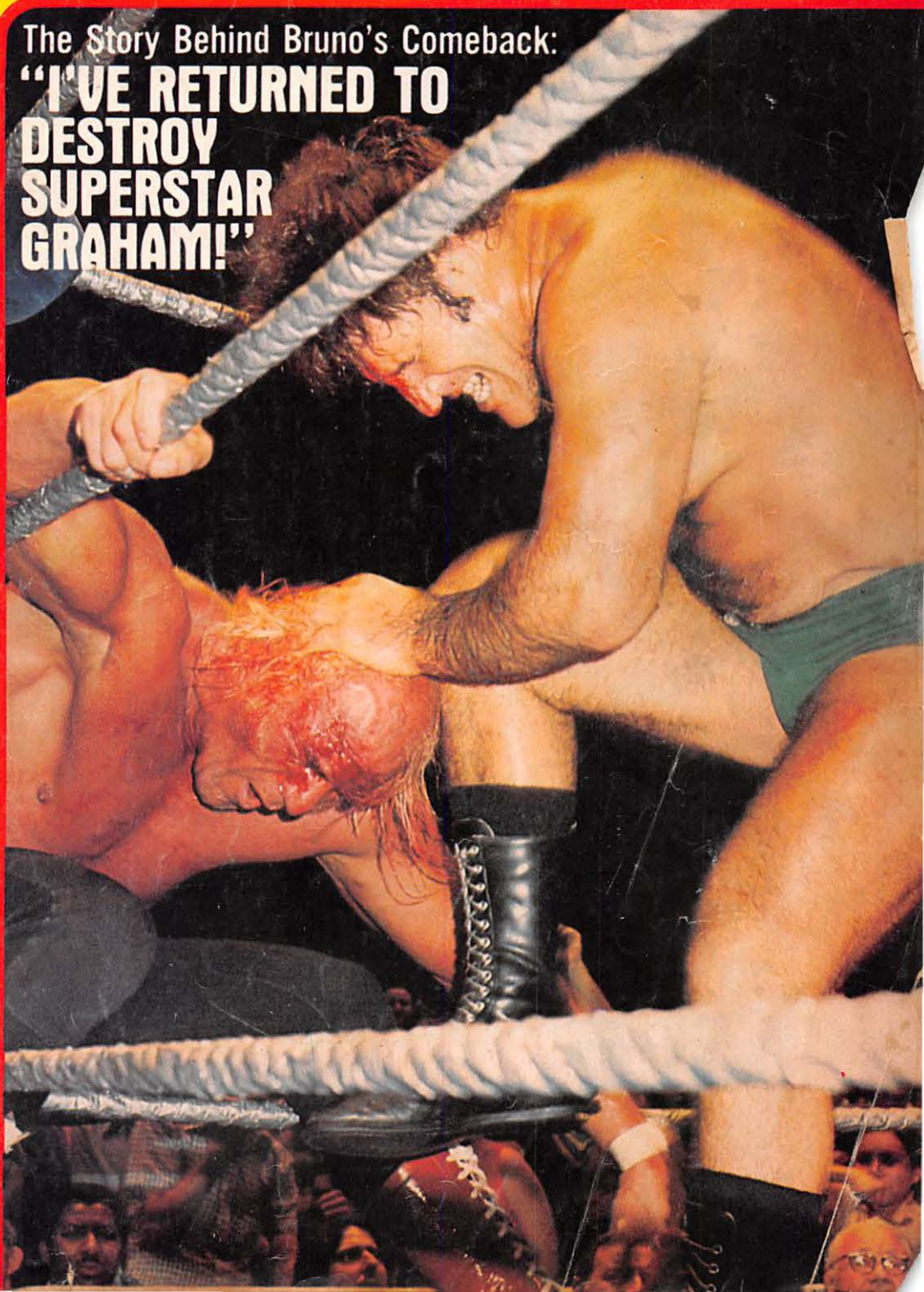
**THE MATCH
THAT MADE
DUSTY
RHODES
CRY**



**BLACKJACK
MULLIGAN:
"MY NEW LIFE
IS A
LIVING HELL!"**

**HOW A
CUB REPORTER
COST WAHOO
THE NWA TITLE!**

The Story Behind Bruno's Comeback:
**"I'VE RETURNED TO
DESTROY
SUPERSTAR
GRAHAM!"**



01



I'll guide you into your own

● While keeping your
you like to gross \$14 or

a true story

own business was so much easier than I had always thought . . . why the day to day guidance of a successful worldwide organization could assure my own success.

I read the booklet several times. It just seemed too good to be true. I talked it over with my wife. We decided that **now** was the time to make the forward step . . . there was no reason to keep postponing an income increase.

So, I applied for a Duraclean dealership and I was accepted. I stayed with my job . . . ran a few ads . . . sent some mailings . . . contacted a few stores and told my friends about the superior services I was now equipped to give them. Evenings and Saturdays, I rendered the service. As the business grew, I added servicemen.

I found that I didn't have to develop a single idea myself. Every step had been prepared for me and pre-tested. Hundreds of other men had already proven my methods successful.

It didn't take long to see that I was making three to four times (yes, 3 to 4 times) as much per hour in my own business as in my printing job. So, after only seven months with a good following of customers, I quit my job to go full time on my own. In the meantime, I had enjoyed all this extra income on top of my salary.

Each day, we realized what a **serious** mistake not mailing that coupon would have been . . . and how that little act that seemed so trivial at the time actually changed our lives.

The steadily growing income brought us many things we could not afford before. My efforts were so much more productive. I scheduled my time to my own liking. When we wanted a day or two off, we took it. I worked hard but, if I wanted to be home early or quit at noon, I did.

I became so enthusiastic about this business and so appreciative of what it had brought my family that, whenever a man opened a dealership near me, I helped him get a quick start.

The company learned about this and had each new dealer in my section of Michigan spend a day with me. One day the president of Duraclean Company asked me how I would like to move to Headquarters and spend my entire time helping dealers to increase their sales and profits.

That was good news to my ears. Since then I have worked with hundreds of our dealers in their own towns and at regional meetings, con-

SOME YEARS AGO I was a printer in a small Michigan town.

I drew a pretty fair pay check but it wouldn't stretch far enough to provide the kind of living I wanted for my wife and five children.

Then one day I was reading a magazine just as you now are and I saw an ad. It intrigued me. It offered me the steadily growing income I had always hoped for. It said I would have greater security and personal independence . . . and that's what I had been wanting.

I was a little skeptical, but I said to myself, "for a postage stamp I can find out." So I mailed the coupon. In a few days, I got a letter with a booklet that gave the whole story. It opened my eyes. I could see why owning my

step by step thriving business

present job, would
\$21 profit per hour?

by Bob Ferrel

ventions and dealer group meetings.

Incidentally I sold my dealership at a good profit. If for any reason a dealer wants to sell, we maintain a service to locate buyers and help him sell.

Our job here at headquarters is to show each individual Duraclean dealer how to use his own abilities to bring him greatest success.

It's Easier than You Think To Build Your Own Business

If you've wanted to BE YOUR OWN BOSS... to become financially independent and have a fast growing income, now YOU CAN. And you own a Nationally Advertised business.

You can stay at your present job while your customer list grows... then switch to full time, lining up jobs for your servicemen to do. One job a day brings a good starting income.

If you hire two servicemen (full or part time) while you keep your job, the national price guide provides you a gross profit of \$14 an hour on their work and this is much easier to do than you think. **We show you how...** step by step. That's \$490 for a 35 hour week.

Your gross profit on three servicemen is \$21 per hour. An efficient Duraclean dealer can gross \$7 per hour on EACH serviceman plus \$12 an hour on any service he himself renders. The 24 page illustrated booklet we'll mail you (with no obligation) explains how most of your gross profit becomes **clear net profit**. Your income is limited only by the number of servicemen you employ.

You can operate from a shop, office, or your home. Equipment is light and portable.

At the start, you may want to render service yourself... or you can start with full or part time servicemen. This business is easy to learn... easy to start... so easy to service that women dealers do it. We prefer you have no experience... not have to "unlearn" old ways.

We are NOW enlarging this worldwide system of individually-owned service businesses. If you are reliable, honest and willing to work to become financially independent, we invite you to mail the coupon.

When you receive our illustrated booklet, you will see the way we show you **step by step** how to quickly get customers... and still more customers from their recommendations.

You have 7 superior services that are rendered "on location" in homes, offices, hotels, theaters, clubs, motels and institutions.

These are not ordinary services. You have the prestige and endorsement of leading furniture makers and carpet mills, of National Magazine editors, of Research and Testing Laboratories.

National magazine advertising explains superior merits of **your** services, builds **your** customer confidence and brings job leads to **you**.

Stores, upholsterers, insurance adjustors, and decorators refer jobs to our dealers. These year 'round services are in constant demand.

Start Small, Grow Big in this Booming Business

Many men have said to us, "I can't afford to give up my job till I know I have a sure thing... a sound business that will provide both security and a better living for my family."

That made sense to us so we worked out such a plan... and those same men are now enjoying a Duraclean dealership in many communities. You don't experiment. You use **tested, proven** methods. You have **our backing** and "**know how**."

Does this appeal to you? Don't decide now. Mail the coupon so you'll have the facts to decide wisely. There is no obligation. You'll then know whether this is what you want.

You can start small and grow big. A third century ago Duraclean was an idea... but it caught fire and spread to a world wide service.

Our first service, the care of upholstery and carpets not only cleans, it enlivens the fibers... revives dull colors. Pile rises with **new life**. There's no harsh machine scrubbing. No soaking. Mild aerated foam lightly applied lifts out dirt, grease, many unsightly spots like magic. Furnishings are used again in a few hours.

Government figures show service businesses are **growing faster** than industries and stores... \$750 million yearly potential just in rug and furniture cleaning. Your **6 other services** are explained in the free booklet we'll mail you.

Only \$1985 starts you in YOUR OWN business. A day's profit more than pays the monthly payments we finance for you.

It is surprisingly easy to learn this business. You can decide from the information we will send you whether to apply for a dealership. So, with **no obligation whatever**, mail the coupon TODAY.

Mail this coupon TODAY It may put you in business

Duraclean International
9-961 Duraclean Bldg., Deerfield, Ill. 60015

With no obligation, mail 24 page illustrated booklet telling how and why I can quickly increase my income and family security while still employed, how you'll help finance me. No salesman will call.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State & Zip _____
Telephone (area code) _____

THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS
THE LID OFF PRO WRESTLING

INSIDE

Wrestling

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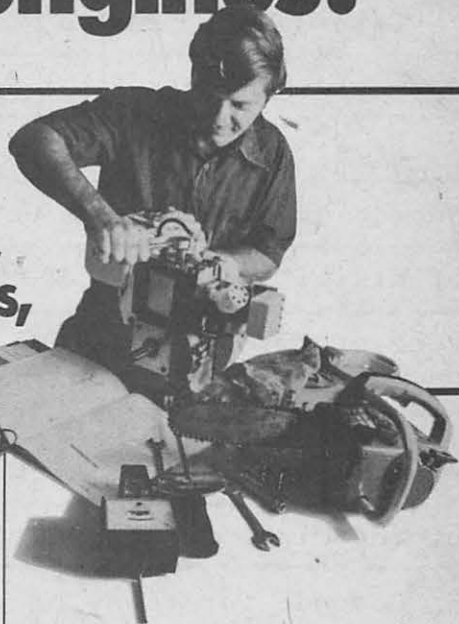
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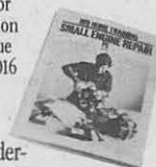
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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King

Editor-in-Chief

This month, "Editor's Notebook" will be devoted to clearing up some old business.

First, the results of our recent fan poll in which you were to decide whether or not AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel should be stripped of his title [INSIDE WRESTLING/October 1978]. Surprisingly, by a close vote of 17,654 to 16,993, you voted "No," Bockwinkel should not have his title taken away. Many of you who voted in the majority explained you did want to see Nick lose his belt, but only within the confines of the ring. Congratulations on what I feel was an intelligent choice.

Second, for those of you who sent in for a free membership card in "Dusty's Army" [INSIDE WRESTLING/November 1978]. If you enclosed a stamped, self-addressed envelope, you should have received your card by now. Unfortunately, if you forget to enclose a SASE, we were unable to send you a membership card.

Third, Dino Bravo's winning streak, which I first discussed in my column in the November issue. As we were going to press, I learned that Dino's streak was just halted by Superstar Graham. At the time of that bout, Bravo had recorded 69 consecutive victories in under 15 minutes. This excellent achievement placed Dino 10th on the all-time list. Even though he fell short of the record of 142 straight, it was still a great accomplishment. I know I join all wrestling fans in congratulating Dino on his exciting streak. By the way, we are now preparing a story on both the Bravo-Graham match and a study of those on the all-time winning streak list. We hope to publish them in a future issue of INSIDE WRESTLING.

And finally, let me wish all of you a very happy Thanksgiving. See you again next month.

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Start for less than you make in 1 hour on first job!

With just a small down payment, you get the complete VIP going-into-business kit . . . all equipment, materials, complete step-by-step instructions, business-building helps . . . everything you need!

\$513⁰⁰
in first 10 days!

"The first 10 days I made \$513. Now getting business from 15 car dealers, 6 furniture stores, 4 restaurants and bars, and clothing stores."
H. Whaley, Wash.

"Wherever I see vinyl, I can do business"



"I've made as much as \$60 in 3 hours."
C. Herrera, Jr., Ariz.

9 HOLIDAY INNS FOR HUSBAND/WIFE TEAM

"These Inns have put us on a monthly allotment. We are busy every day. Wonderful to be one's own boss. We are putting on one repairman to handle business other than Holiday Inns. With our setup, we have weekly checks coming from just the Inns."

Mr. & Mrs. Bechtel, Ohio

STEADY WORK FOR 20 CAR DEALERS



"20 car dealers give me all their repair work. I call on two or three every day, take care of what's needed. No matter what the repair is, it's easy to do with VIP."

R. Lanning, Ky.



\$440 IN 9 HOURS!

"I repaired 55 chairs at the NCO Club at \$8 each — \$440 for 9 hours' work. Materials and transportation cost only \$35!"

D. Gagnon, S.C.

HERE'S THE VIP VINYL REPAIR KIT
that puts you in your own **HIGH-PROFIT BUSINESS**

They all started by mailing a coupon like this. YOU CAN TOO!

ALL FACTS FREE BY MAIL — NO SALESMAN WILL CALL. MAIL COUPON NOW

MAKE \$20 TO \$30 FOR AN HOUR'S JOB LIKE THIS



BEFORE



AFTER

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Auto dealers, car shops, restaurants, motels, bars, clubs, hospitals, bus companies . . . these are just a few of the places that need vinyl repairs, repeatedly. The business is there, waiting for you. And a repair job that takes 1/2 an hour to an hour can mean a quick \$15 to \$30 for you . . . most of it **PURE PROFIT!**

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2021 Montrose, Chicago, Ill. 60618

PLEASE RUSH BY MAIL **FREE FACTS** about VIP Vinyl Repair and how I can start making money within a few days! No salesman is to call. I am under no obligation.

Print Name _____
Print Address _____
Print City/State/Zip _____

Body Slams & Pinfalls

By Dan Shocket

BAD THINGS COME in threes. New York City has recently suffered through an outbreak of Legionnaire's Disease and polluted water. The third plague is the return of Bruno Sammartino to Madison Square Garden.

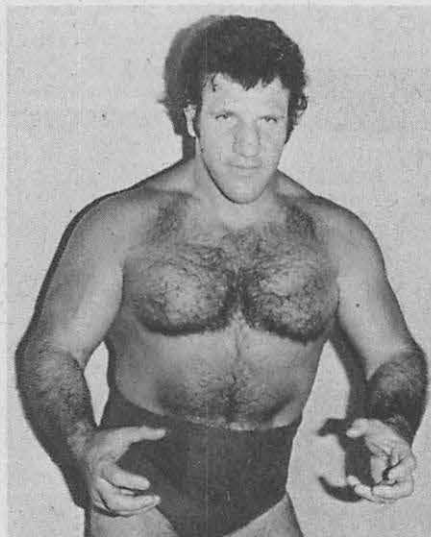
All three disasters have something in common. Exposure leaves the victim nauseous. Continued exposure has been known to be deadly. Sammartino victims suffer the cruelest death, expiring either by rage or boredom.

Months ago, apparently someone finally explained to Bruno that he was too clumsy and stupid to keep wrestling. Not that he was ever much of a wrestler, but he knew how to bribe the right people and fool the dumber fans. His record of improving the lifestyle of every referee he ever met will probably go unchallenged forever, unless a Rockefeller decides to take up wrestling. However, even bad things must come to an end, and referees were finding it harder and harder to overlook the moron's cheating. So, Bruno took his unwashed sweat socks and packed it in.

We hoped. Wrestling thrived without this blight on the WWWF. The former champion cut out paper dollies while Superstar Billy Graham reminded the fans how great a

champion could be. It might not have been the best of all possible worlds, but the absence of Sammartino was sure to improve any situation.

Yet, everyone wasn't happy. Some fans missed Sammartino, presumably because they like a champion to be stupider than they are. With Bruno gone, they



Here he is, the "living dummy!" It's too bad Sammartino has decided to make a comeback. It's boring time again my friends!

faced being the stupidest people in the arena. Now that the grappling goon has returned they can once again enjoy feeling superior to someone. No wonder they cheer when the wrestling rhino clomps into view.

So we're now forced to confront the return of Bruno the

bum. If history repeats itself, and Bruno seems to invite regurgitation, Sammartino will quickly become a top contender, if not champion. Bribed officials, decent wrestlers being robbed of victories, and sorrow in the land will return. The sport will have to struggle valiantly to survive his presence. There are certain things the concerned fan must do.

First, whenever Bruno appears, be sure to attend and cheer for his opponent. This will give the decent wrestler moral support, especially when the odds are so stacked against him. It will also show that Sammartino doesn't have a stranglehold on fans' affections, giving the referees second thoughts about getting away with murder. Vigilant fans can make it too hot for corrupt officials to take bribes. Bruno would have to wrestle on his ability. It would take only three weeks before he was forced back to Pittsburgh.

Secondly, Bruno's appearances must be greeted with boos. Tell this wrestling disgrace in no uncertain terms that he's not wanted. Since his departure, the sport has done exceptionally well. The WWWF has never been in better shape. Sammartino is the wrestling equivalent to Novocain. The

(Continued on page 46)

Television Psychic Bob Ferguson shows you

MAGIC WORDS TO COMMAND MIRACLES OF WEALTH, LOVE, AND HEALTH—IN MINUTES!

Here is staggering proof, based on actual reported miracles, that what has worked for thousands will absolutely work for you!

Yes, how would you like to say some magic words, and be shown with hundreds of dollars in as little as 45 minutes? Or use amazing healing words, and get rid of crippling ailments instantly? Do you realize that it is possible to instantly and secretly command others to do your bidding . . . punish evil doers . . . see behind closed doors . . . be anything and have anything your heart desires . . . with magic words so simple yet so powerful, they can only be described as miraculous!

Yes, soon miracles will be happening to you every day, with the amazing secret of PSYCHIC TELEMETRY! My name is Robert A. Ferguson. You may have seen me on TV. I have shown hundreds how to use this amazingly simple power to command instant miracles to happen in minutes!

Impossible? I have staggering proof that it's not only possible but absolutely true and that this MIRACLE POWER WILL ABSOLUTELY WORK FOR YOU—to change your life from poverty to riches, from poor health to radiant new health, to bring whatever you desire almost instantly! I'm not exaggerating when I say the sky's the limit!

POSITIVE PROOF THAT WHAT I SAY IS TRUE!

Right now I'm going to prove to you how easily PSYCHIC TELEMETRY works for you. Remember, I cannot profit by exaggeration. What I tell you has got to be true, and it costs you nothing to find out for yourself.

• **HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS IN 45 MINUTES!** I have a report here from Mary D. who needed \$400 quickly. She had no idea where she could get the needed money. Her sister gave her a Psychic Telemetry Enchantment to say. In only 45 minutes, she received \$400 from an unexpected source!

That's chickenfeed compared to the staggering results many others have achieved with these magic words! Dave E. had been unable to find a job, and had only 3 days left before having to pay a big bill. He didn't have a cent. In one session, I showed him how to use the Psychic Telemetry Prosperity Ritual. The next morning, he was all smiles, as he reported a sudden windfall of \$2,000—more than enough to pay the bill. A miracle? Of course! Yet just a very average example of the power of these magic words!

Dave used the Prosperity Ritual at about 9:00 P.M. At 8:00 A.M. the following morning, he got the money! As simple as that! I HAVE HUNDREDS OF CASES ON FILE, PROVING HOW EASILY MIRACLES HAPPEN with these magic words! Before I give you the next case, let me say this: DO YOU NEED MONEY? Say the powerful words on page 37! With this secret, money is always available to you!

You can get any amount of money at any time you need it! I am telling you the sky's the limit on how much money you can ask for and receive quickly with this power! Proof?

HOW AGNES C. WON OVER \$500,000 WITH THE WORDS FOR WINNING CONTESTS!

Agnes C. was told about enchantments and spells, but insisted that she possessed no psychic powers and never had any psychic experiences. Here's what happened: she kept dreaming of a man in a flowing robe with dollar signs all over it, holding up 7 fingers, saying: "A dollar a day keeps poverty away!" She purchased a one-dollar lottery ticket.

"I simply could not believe it when my number was drawn for the grand prize (7 days later). I still can't believe it," she says. "I won over a half-million dollars." Agnes and her family are now enjoying their new lakefront home with its private bathroom and dock. They have two expensive autos and all the other luxuries money can buy.

The point is: YOU CAN USE THE SAME SECRET! You'll find the very words she used on page 37 of my book, and it won't cost you a single cent to find out what they are, and how they'll work for you.

MAGIC WORDS FOR MIRACLE HEALING!

Before I tell you how YOU may achieve a MIRACLE HEALING, let me tell you how a man was healed of arthritis in FIFTEEN MINUTES! A friend of mine, Louie A., tried the power Ritual for Magnetic Healing on page 146 on his next-door neighbor, Ken, who was confined to a wheelchair with arthritis. In a matter of minutes, the crippled man was WALKING! "I haven't been able to walk for months," he said, "and you got me out of my wheelchair."

Since that day, Louie has been able to heal "incurable" diseases! AND YOU CAN DO THE VERY SAME THING! This is just an average case. With this power, you can command healings like this on almost a daily basis. I'm telling you this power is FANTASTIC!

Look what you can do, with exact words I give you on page

139-140—

- Cure ulcers, nervous headache, and insomnia! Calm the nerves!
- Cure diseases of the liver and spleen—stop bleeding!
- Strengthen the eyes, control epilepsy and disorders of the stomach!

- Cure heart disease, increase circulation, and heal gout!
- Heal burns, conditions of the nose, throat and sinus, treat hay fever and asthma!

. . . and much more! With these words, you ask great rays of healing power to enfold you, pulsating within every nerve and cell of your body, cleansing, soothing and healing! Whatever you are trying to heal, you know the job will be done.

MIRACLE CURES REPORTED!

Do you realize that it is possible to get rid of crippling ailments almost instantly with healing words? You can command that all sickness and disease be banished from your body! Here is a force so powerful that it almost defies description! It can heal a withered limb or return sight to the blind . . . raise the crippled from their beds! It has brought miracle cures to the suffering and the lame!

• **KIDNEYS MIRACULOUSLY HEALED!** Evelina's only hope was to find a suitable kidney donor. She was so weak, it took two people to almost carry her to the hospital for her frequent treatments. There seemed to be little hope for her. With this method, she says—

"My whole body began to tingle—it felt like little electric shocks were playing games at the small of my back . . . suddenly . . . I knew I was healed! I leapt from my bed and ran into the living room screaming, 'I'M HEALED, I'M HEALED!' Our house was filled with tears of joy that night."

Today she is so healthy, she can hike and even climb mountains! It happens all the time with PSYCHIC TELEMETRY:

• **HOW HARVEY C.'S ASTHMA WAS CURED!** Harvey C. suffered asthma all his life. He could never run more than a few steps, without gasping for breath. Doctors were unable to cure it. I was so positive Harvey's asthma could be cured, I merely had him say the words on page 139-140. He never had another asthma attack! Now he can run and even play tennis!

• **HAROLD SAW HIS LUNG SPOT VANISH!** Harold F. was shocked, when told he had a spot on his lung, and needed an immediate operation. His wife quickly used the amazing healing words on page 145. The day before the operation, when x-rays were taken, the doctor was baffled. "I don't know how to explain this," he said. "Your lungs are perfectly clear."

MAGIC FORCES THAT WORK MIRACLES

Once you call on them, powerful forces stand ready to fulfill your every command. You can be confident that they will work a miracle.

• **HOW ALLEN F. WON \$800 AT THE CRAP TABLE AFTER USING THE MAGIC WORDS ON PAGE 30!** Allen F. needed \$800 by Monday morning. It was Friday already, and things looked hopeless. He's never been inside a gambling casino and knew nothing about roulette, craps, or blackjack, but he had a strange urge to try it. With only \$1, he said the magic words on page 22, turned silently, and headed for the crap table. He threw the dice, and it came up 7. He tried it again and again. A crowd gathered. The dice were changed, but he kept throwing 7's. He walked away with \$800!

Anyone can use these magic words. When you use them, what you command *does* happen! You can count positively on real results. It always works! It is not evil—nor is it Black Magic. Like electricity, it is simply a power given by nature to make life easier!

• **MAGIC WORDS GIVE YOU POWER OVER OTHERS!** Say the magic words on page 44 to make others do your bidding. With this Enchantment, you send forth mystic rays of power to impress those whom you command to bend to your will at all times. It makes other people like putty in your hands! No one can resist you! Let me show you how easily this happens!

To use this power is simplicity itself! Say the magic words—then just sit back and relax. Within seconds, minutes at most, you will have a willing, obedient slave!

You can stand next to a person and place a thought in his or her mind. When others are asleep, you are free to speak directly to their subconscious mind. Your voice is remembered upon awakening. People obey your commands. It's fantastic!

• **MAGIC WORDS THAT BRING YOU LOVE!** Say the magic words on page 47, to command and guide the perfect partner to you . . . to command him or her to be blind to your shortcomings, and fulfill your every need and your every desire!

• **MAGIC WORDS FOR SECRET KNOWLEDGE!** The magic words on page 164 allow you to become an invisible traveler to anywhere in the world. You can listen to conversations and you can see what's going on, completely undetected. You will experience the ability to walk through walls and doors. Nothing can be kept secret from you—there is no longer such a thing as a locked door. You can enter any place at will. If you wish to know about



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ROBERT A. FERGUSON, author, lecturer, and Psychic Telemetry teacher, has been involved in the occult field for over thirty years. He has been a frequent guest on many television talk shows, and has had articles published in magazines such as *National Enquirer*, *Occult*, *Psychic World*, and others. Mr. Ferguson has been called, "The leading authority in this field" by a number of prestigious Societies in England. He has also acted as psychic consultant to top American corporations and entertainment personalities.

others, you can secretly and invisibly watch their every move and hear their every word!

• **MAGIC WORDS PROTECT YOU FROM EVIL!** Say the magic words on page 51, for attunement with the pure rays of power that come to you from the Great Cosmic Mind . . . to affirm protection from every curse or evil influence . . . Say them to command divine protection, and that no evil will be able to penetrate your shield of power, and that those who would send you evil shall be powerless, and their evil shall return to them a hundredfold.

• **MAGIC WORDS TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!** There is no need to blindly stumble into the future. When you say the magic words on page 62, your psychic eyes will open, and you will see actual visions of future events. Vision upon vision will flash brilliantly into your mind. If there is danger ahead, Cosmic Mind will flash you the warning so a possible catastrophe can be avoided. If there is tremendous goodness in the future, all will be revealed to you!

THE AMAZING SECRET OF COSMIC DUST!

On page 204, I tell you the amazing secret of Cosmic Dust: how to make it and USE it to bring good fortune, punish evil doers, and heal the sick! The 3 needed ingredients are easy and inexpensive to obtain. (You may already have them, in your kitchen or basement storage areas.) Put a level teaspoon of each in a bowl and mix well. Your Cosmic Dust is then ready to work amazing miracles for you!

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BOSTON
GARDEN
BOSTON

THE OMNI
ATLANTA

THE
FAIRGROUNDS
RICHMOND

THE PAPER WAS folded into a rectangle. It lay beneath a can opener, several packs of matches, a road map and flashlight, all in a traveling man's glove compartment. It'd be nice to say I had forgotten about it. I couldn't. And even if I did, the car which pursued me for five hours made me coldly aware of the important possession I was transporting.

It was a contract. A pact between Nick Bockwinkel and Dusty Rhodes to wrestle for the AWA title. So? Except this contract contained one unalterable clause which a certain person wanted changed.

The title could change hands this match—even by disqualification. Bockwinkel had signed it in good faith. His manager, Bobby Heenan, had negotiated the contract. Rhodes had negotiated with the expectation that he'd have a real opportunity to win the title, and not be denied by Bockwinkel's cowardly method of getting disqualified.

There were two copies. A curious demand by Heenan, but

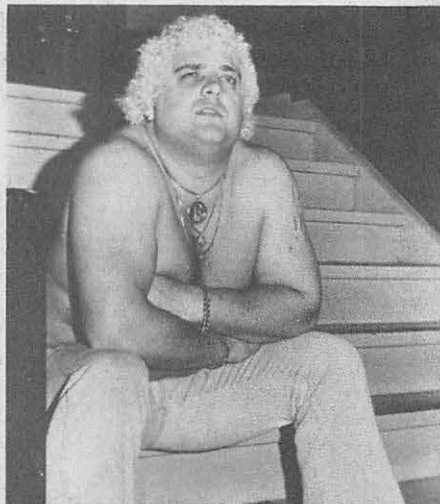
one which Rhodes accepted. One copy was in the AWA headquarters.

Or was it? I called my office an hour ago from a roadside phone and learned that the office had been burglarized. The contract was missing.

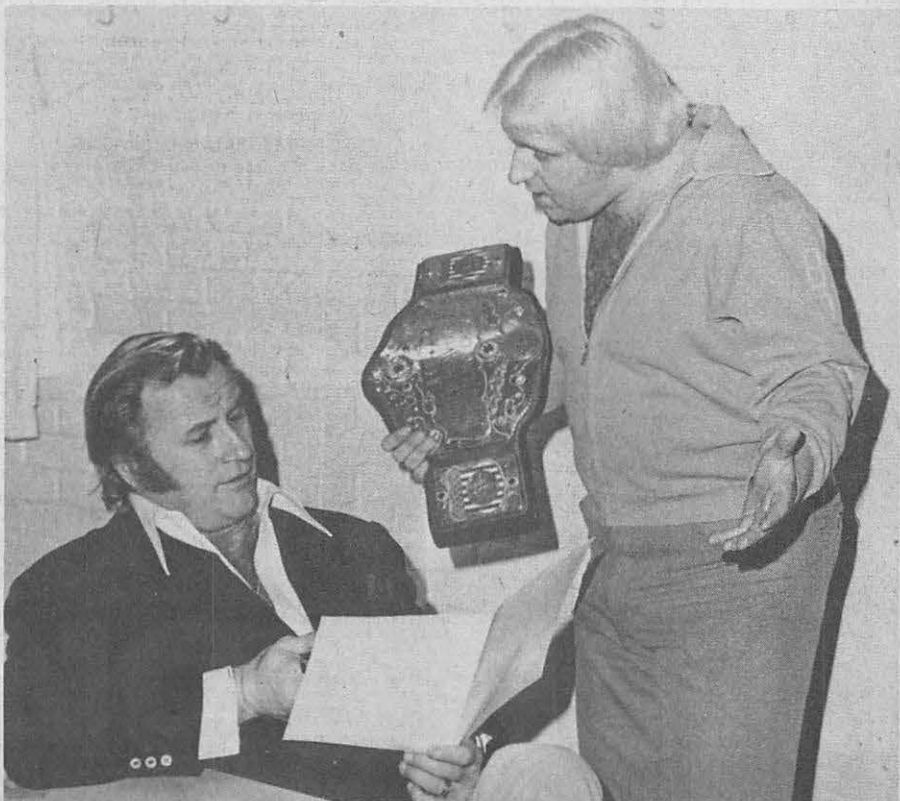
Now there was one. One copy with the stipulation which someone didn't want in there.

Now who could that be? I

(Continued on page 48)



Dusty Rhodes (above) may have his AWA title hopes crushed by Bobby Heenan and Nick Bockwinkel (below). Here they discuss a contract regarding a Rhodes match.



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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Randy
Gordon

YOU NEVER KNOW how much you miss a person until that person is not around. Such was the case with Bruno Sammartino. He was—is—so great, that we all, including myself, began to take him for granted. But “The Living Legend” is back once more, and I swear to savor every match this amazing athlete ever wrestles in again.

His presence in an arena filled with rulebreakers is like a breath of fresh country air. There has never been, and I doubt there will ever be, a wrestler who has so captured the respect of his enemies and the hearts and imagination of the wrestling public as Bruno Sammartino.

I'm glad Bruno came back. Wrestling needs him. Not only for its war against rulebreakers, but for the skills he can teach some of the sport's young and hungry scientific grapplers. If a young wrestler can learn even one one-hundredth of what Sammartino knows, he'll be a better wrestler for it.

More matches should have the ending of the recent Fritz Von Erich-Killer Krupp match. After some early rough going, in which he survived every dirty maneuver in Krupp's arsenal, Von Erich came on strong to out-claw his German counterpart. In the dressing room afterwards, I watched with a smile on my lips as a doctor put 30 stitches in Krupp's forehead. I'm sure a few more endings like this will give Krupp reason to think about changing professions.

(Continued on page 56)

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But here is some good news. We recently consolidated our warehouses and uncovered a small number of copies of some issues which had been sold out for years. Now we are offering these extremely rare issues, on a FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS, for \$5 per copy. These copies will not last long, so we caution you to order immediately to avoid being disappointed. Not all these copies are in perfect condition. Some have soiled backs or marred covers and frayed edges. But they are still very rare collectors' items, well worth \$5 a copy.

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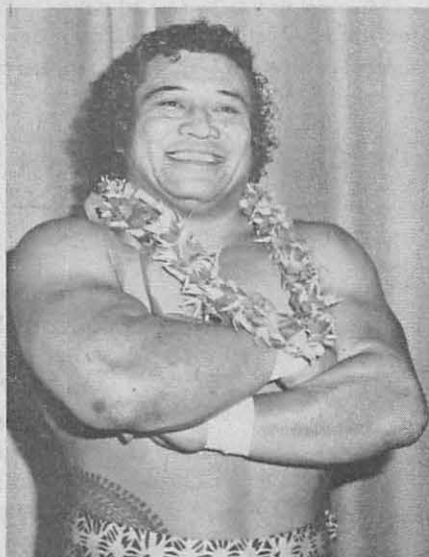
SHOCK OF THE MONTH—GREG GAGNE and JIM BRUNZELL have been stripped of the American Wrestling Association tag team title! The governing body of the AWA took the diamond-studded belts away shortly after Brunzell sustained a serious leg injury while playing softball during a benefit game for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.



BRUNZELL & GAGNE

Realizing he was unable to defend the coveted title along with Greg, Jim suggested that Gagne find another partner who could take Jim's place until he recovered. The AWA refused to let Gagne do this and immediately gave the title to number one ranked contenders PAT PATTERSON and RAY STEVENS.

Fans all over the Association's territory expressed outrage and demanded an explanation. A spokesman for the AWA stated,



PETER MAIVIA

"We have done what we consider to be in the best interest of all concerned."

OTHER NEWS: WWWF champion BOB BACKLUND has formed a tag team with PETER MAIVIA. They hope to win the WWWF tag team belts from THE LUMBERJACKS . . . HARLEY RACE on his next title defense against ANDRE THE GIANT: "I've wrestled preliminary wrestlers who are tougher than that bum. Just watch how easily I whip him." . . . Yes, that was RIC FLAIR who slapped his "good friend" GREG VALENTINE on the face at a Mid-Atlantic arena during a tag team bout. No, we don't know what caused him to do so, but we're going to find out!

TERRY FUNK was such a hit in "Paradise Alley" that several movie companies have asked him to audition for leading parts in some of their upcoming films . . . BRUNO SAMMARTINO is back, and his return to Madison Square Garden was an event one

can never forget. The roar of the crowd was the loudest and most enthusiastic this reporter can ever remember . . . ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER ripped the mask of MR. WRESTLING II from the man's head and then ate the mask! However, no one saw his face due to quick thinking by the sensational grappler. "I wore two masks that night!" he explained. "I knew Abdullah would try something like that so I took proper measures to protect myself."

It appears that BOB ORTON JR. wants no part of a rematch against MIGHTY IGOR. Young Orton, who was mauled during his first bout against Igor, says "I'm not afraid of Igor, it's just that the



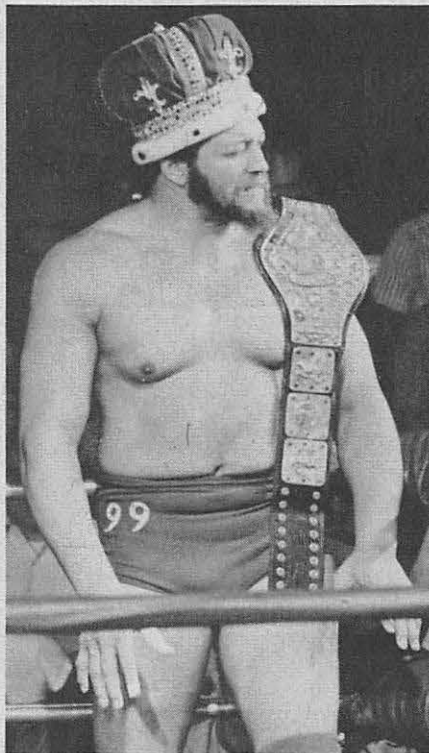
MR. WRESTLING II

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

promoters won't pay me the money I want to get into the ring with that freak again." . . . AWA champion NICK BOCKWINKLE has contender JERRY LAWLER knocking at his door, but Nick refuses to answer. Nick's manager and "mouthpiece," BOBBY HEENAN, says, "Lawler has had one match against Nick and proved beyond a doubt he is not worth wrestling a second time."

Fans in Georgia are celebrating the defeat of state tag team champions IVAN KOLOFF and

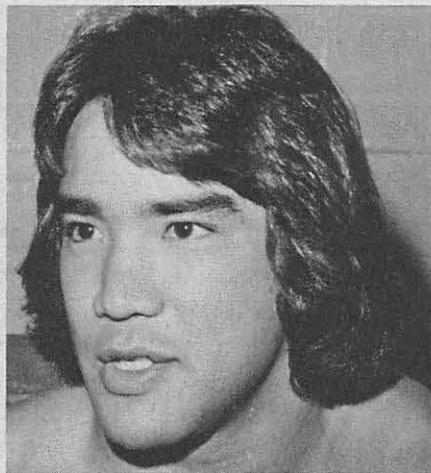


ERNIE LADD

OLE ANDERSON. The new champions are "WILDFIRE" TOMMY RICH and RICK MARTEL . . . STAN HANSEN is feuding with all of Georgia's scientific wrestling community . . . A foreign object came in handy for

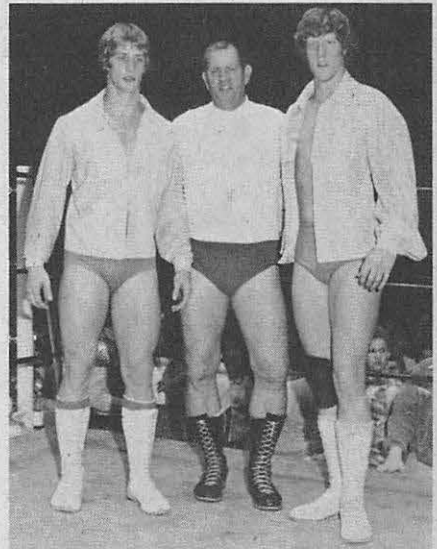
ERNIE LADD in his most recent outing against JOSE LOTHARIO. Jose was beating Ladd to a pulp when Ernie used the object on Jose's throat and was disqualified. It saved him from a terrible beating.

SIEGFRIED STANKE finally has to wrestle RAY CANDY. Stanke, who vowed he would never get into the squared circle against Candy, was forced into a match when the wrestling commission fined him \$500. Stanke has an open contract with promoters. Under no circumstances can he say "no" to any wrestler the promoters want to match him with . . . PEPPER GOMEZ has returned to



RICK STEAMBOAT

California . . . PAMPERO FIRPO is doing well in his matches in Hawaii . . . Big DICK MURDOCH has just signed to wrestle BABA THE GIANT in Japan . . . Huge CRUSHER BLACKWELL looking impressive in his east coast matches. Since joining forces with manager THE GRAND WIZARD, Blackwell



THE VON ERICH FAMILY

appears to be unstoppable.

Here's some great news: RICK STEAMBOAT and DUSTY RHODES may team up for several matches. Rick, who holds the Mid-Atlantic tag team title with PAUL JONES, says, "Dusty and I have been discussing a partnership as soon as we can get some of our commitments cleared." Rick adds that this would not be a permanent tag team. "Oh, no. Just for a few matches. I could never leave Paul Jones."

DORY FUNK JR. and TERRY FUNK have demanded a match against Texas tag team champions KEVIN and DAVID VON ERICH. The match will be signed. "We duck nobody," Kevin says . . . MIL MASCARAS will be returning to the United States soon. As you know, he has been grappling in Japan and South America recently and has won many titles. Fans here can't wait for his return!

That's all for now. See you next month! □

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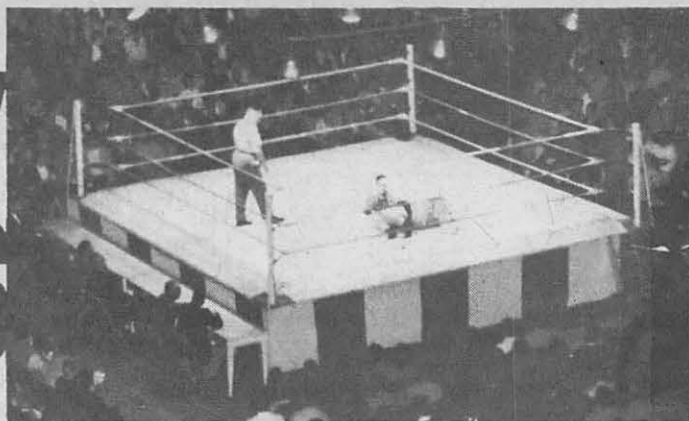
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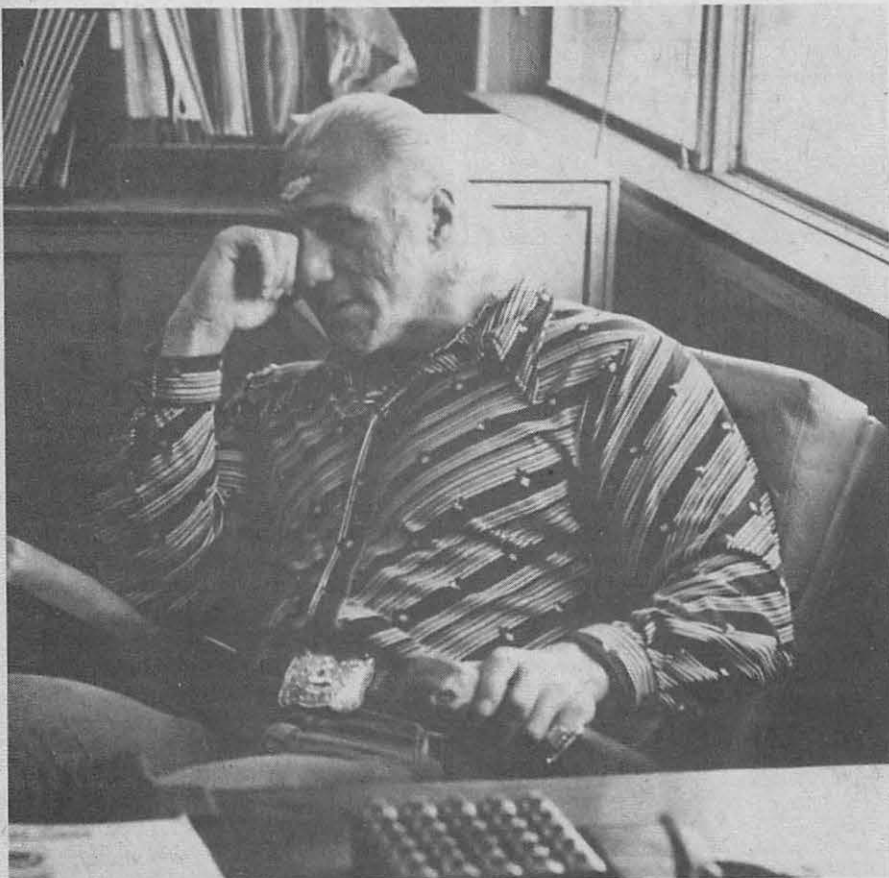


LADD NOT BAD

Your editor-in-chief Peter King truly does not understand one of the greats of wrestling, Ernie Ladd. True, as King points out in his "Editor's Notebook" column (December 1978), Ladd was



Self proclaimed "King of Wrestling" Ernie Ladd is back in the WWF and making life miserable for everyone.



It is obvious that Superstar Graham does not want to discuss the subject of Bob Backlund anymore. Graham has been put down by many fans for his name calling tactics during our "One on One" feature.

GRAHAM A DISGRACE

Your new feature, "One on One" in the November, 1978 issue, is a fantastic idea whose time has definitely come. As usual, **INSIDE WRESTLING** has come up with another superb feature to highlight the magazine.

However I was extremely disappointed with the results of your first interview. Having the

great WWF champion Bob Backlund talk to such a waste of flesh as Superstar Billy Graham was a misuse of a picturephone. Graham did nothing but insult poor Bob. His remarks were disgraceful! I'm sure if Bobby had been near the Superstar, he would have strangled him with the phone wire.

JOHNNY HART
Woodside, N.Y.

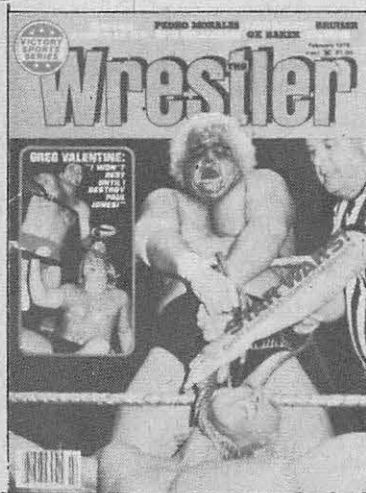
once an all-star defensive end in the American Football League. However Ladd dished out and took tremendous amounts of punishment as a football player. Dirty tactics, if they could be sneaked past the officials, were helpful in beating the offense. It is the same in professional wrestling. If Ladd bends the rules to win, and win he does, then fine, more power to him. Ladd is still a hero worth admiring in my book!

JERRY KATZ
Harrisburg, Pa.
(Continued on page 58)

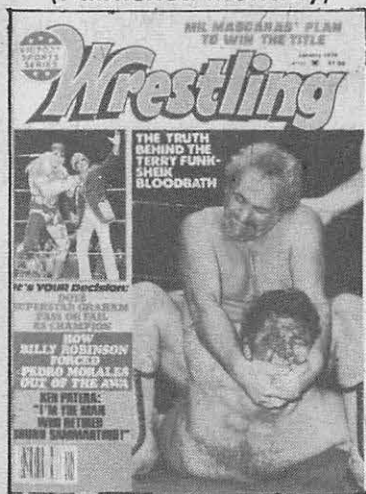
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HONOLULU, HI.

By Hilda Richards



**TOR KAMATA
vs.
PAMPERO FIRPO**

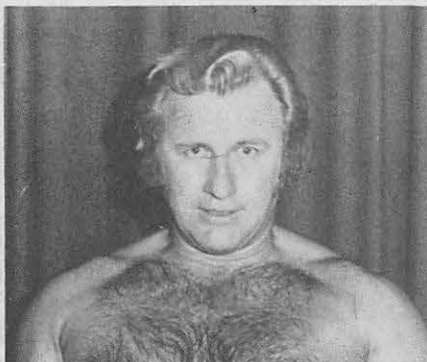


Tor Kamata put his Hawaiian State title on the line against Pampero Firpo. It was a grueling and thrilling match which ended when Kamata was disqualified for several rulebreaker tactics, thus retaining his belt.

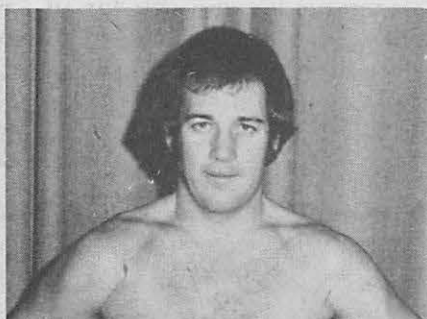
OTHER BOUTS: Don Muraco stopped impressive newcomer Randy All . . . Mid-Pacific International champion Big John Studd beat the challenge of hated rival Superstar Steve Strong to retain his belt.

WINNIPEG, CANADA

By Gil David



**NICK BOCKWINKLE
vs.
GREG GAGNE**



Controversy swirled around a disputed decision involving AWA champ Nick Bockwinkel and challenger Greg Gagne. The challenger supposedly pinned Bockwinkel, but the champ had his foot on the ropes and he was allowed to hold onto the belt.

OTHER BOUTS: Rufus R. Jones and Mighty Igor stopped Super Destroyer II and Lord Alfred Hays . . . Billy Robinson stopped Ray Stevens . . . Pat Patterson halted Chris Pepper . . . Larry Hennig axed Blackjack Lanza . . . Bulldog Bob Brown smashed Dave Kochen.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

By Nila Cross



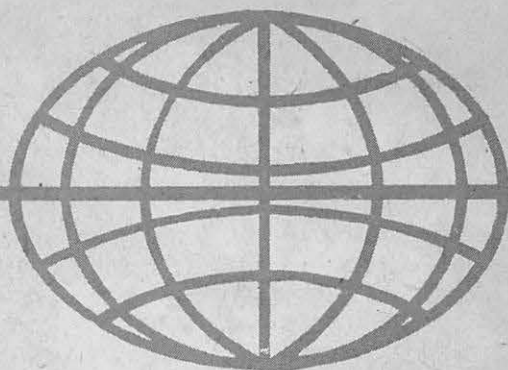
**MR. WRESTLING II
vs.
THE ASSASSIN**



Although it was a non-title match, the first appearance of Mr. Wrestling II in the New Orleans area created much interest. His opponent was The Assassin. Mr. Wrestling II repeatedly foiled The Assassin's attempts to use foreign objects and illegal tactics. With his repertoire of brilliant maneuvers, Mr. Wrestling II vanquished The Assassin.

OTHER BOUTS: The Terrible Turk stopped young Randy Brewer . . . Ray "Candy Man" Candy and Stephen Little Bear successfully defended their Louisiana tag team title against Kurt Von Hess and Siegfried Stankee . . . Eric the Red beat the Brute.

WRESTLING CAPITALS

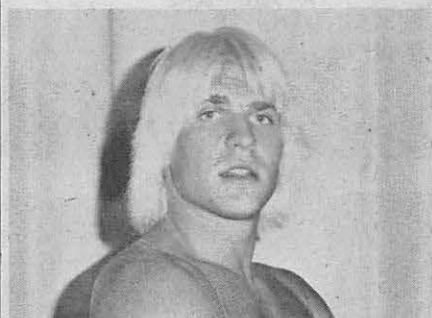


CARROLLTON, GA.

By Clark Duncan



IVAN KOLOFF
vs.
TOMMY RICH



A mad scene developed during the Ivan Koloff-Tommy Rich battle. Koloff achieved his loathsome victory by "accidentally" knocking the referee out of the ring. While the ref recovered, Ole Anderson raced in and slammed Rich with a pipe, stunning him. Koloff jumped on top and was declared the winner.

OTHER BOUTS: Stan Hansen triumphed over Ole Anderson . . . Dick Slater drew with Sonny King . . . Rick Magraw whipped The Challenger.

DALLAS, TEXAS

By Karen Merritt



BRUISER BRODIE
vs.
FRITZ VON ERICH



Instigated by Gary Hart, Bruiser Brodie launched a maniacal attack against Fritz Von Erich. This main event was a wild affair. Alberto Madril called Hart out and a free-for-all ensued. When the Texas dust cleared, Brodie was declared the winner.

OTHER BOUTS: Leroy Brown beat Jack Evans . . . Coloso Colosetti drew with Armando Guerrero . . . Gino Hernandez took two of three falls from Alberto Madril . . . Kevin and David Von Erich halted Karl Krupp and Tim Brooks.

MEMPHIS, TENN.

By Rick Hale



NICK BOCKWINKLE
vs.
JERRY LAWLER

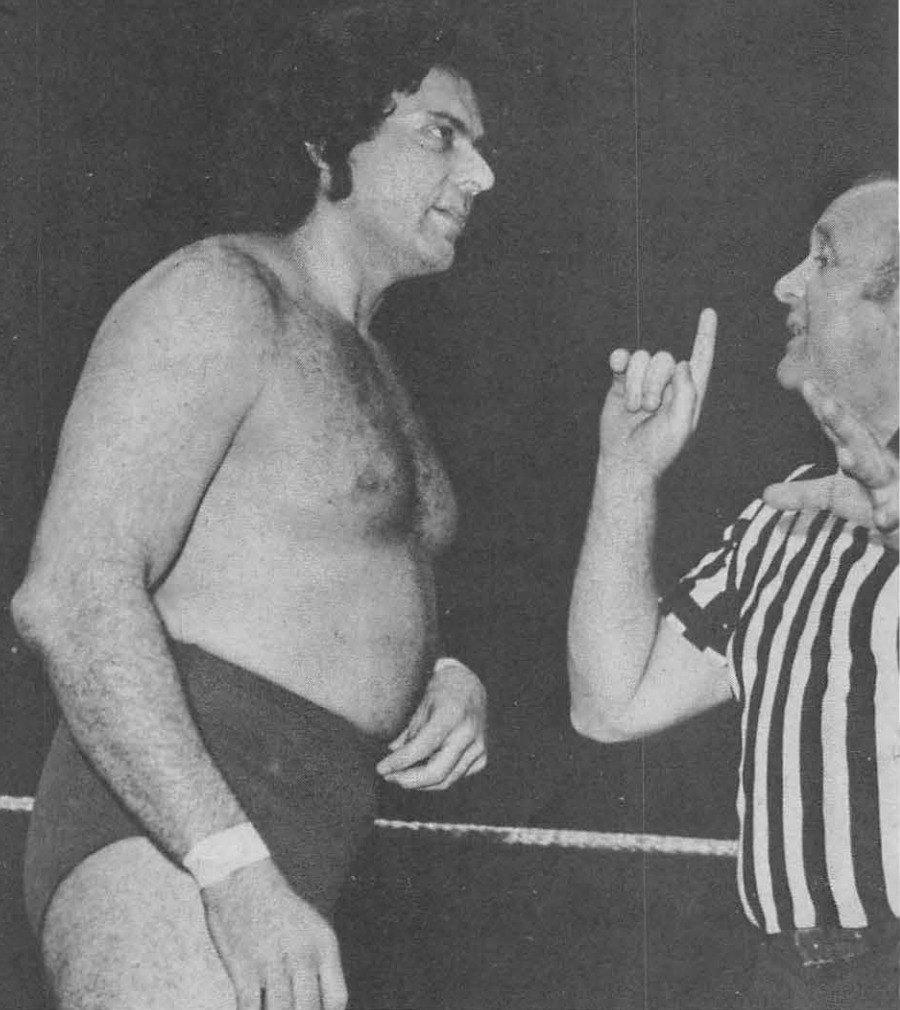


Relying on his cunning tactics, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan successfully "defended" Nick Bockwinkel's AWA title against the tough challenge of Jerry Lawler. Heenan managed to get Bockwinkel disqualified, thus allowing the AWA champ to rely again on that loathsome loophole.

OTHER BOUTS: Jim Brunzell and Greg Gagne beat Frankie Laine and Mike Boyer . . . Verne Gagne put "Outlaw" Ernie Sullivan to sleep . . . Nelson Royal just edged Jackie Welch.

Special EXPOSÉ

WHEN YOU'VE BEEN in this business as long as I have, you're never shocked. At least you like to think that. But I have a confession. I just got a phone call. It was startling. It made me dig and probe, call on my sources and unravel a sickening web of deceit which threatens to choke the WWWF.



ARE THE REFEREES PRO BOB BACKLUND

I had to do it. I have my ethics as a reporter.

This bizarre tale began with that phone call. It was Ivan Koloff. Admittedly, Koloff repulses me. For a lot of reasons, political, social and professional. I took the call.

"Brock, this Matt Brock?" The

accent was already building up to a harsh accusation.

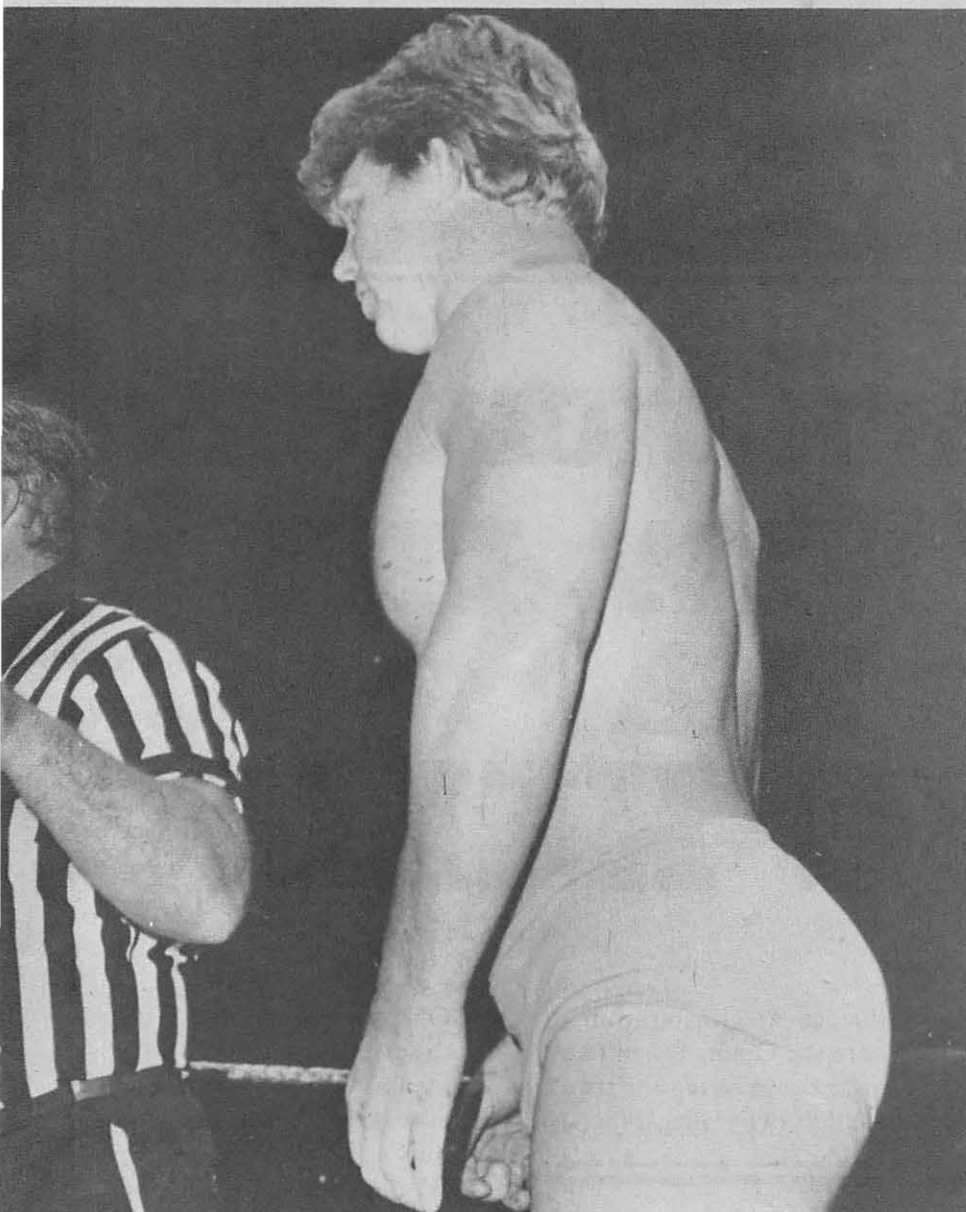
"Yeah, Ivan, what do you want?"

"That decision I lost to Backlund, that was a fast count-out, Brock. When you guys gonna stop protecting Backlund? The refs are

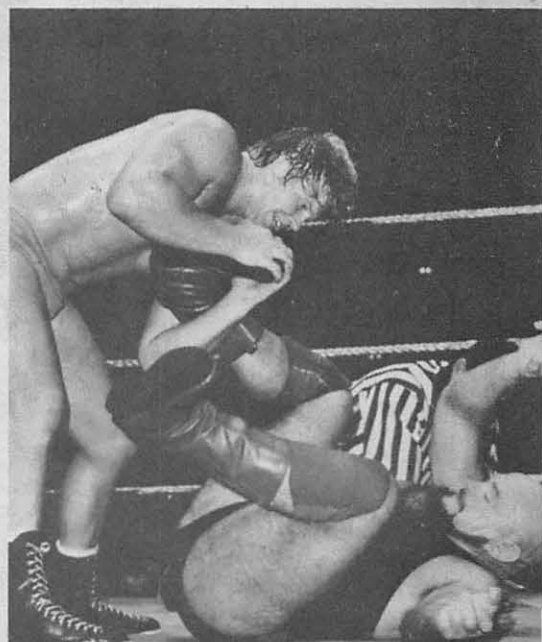
protecting him. Look into this Brock. Maybe you won't believe me, but ask around."

The day dragged. I was watching my shoelaces fall apart and my nail blacken when the impulse hit me.

Maybe we are too easy on the kid. Maybe the boyish good



At first, it was just whispers. Then people began to discuss the subject openly. Now, wherever you go, everyone asks, "Are the referees protecting Bob Backlund?" The accusation must be answered NOW!

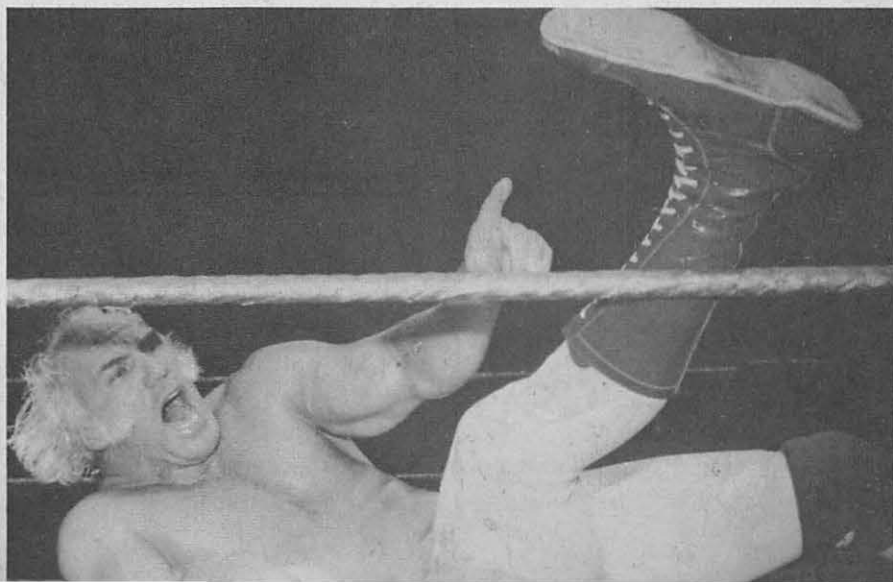


TECTING ND?

Above left: Referee Jack Lotz warns Spiros Arion to "stay within the rulebook." Above: The referee stays in a position to see if Bob is pinning Ivan Koloff. Below: Superstar Graham is horrified. Backlund won his title while Graham's foot was on the ropes!

looks and amazing skills have blinded us. I've been around too long to allow that. Even old Matt was being soft. No more. I flipped open my black book and skimmed past Alice and Darlene. I wanted to substantiate one complete side. I got

(Continued on page 50)



HOTSEAT

BLACKJACK MULLIGAN: "MY NEW LIFE IS A LIVING HELL!"

FOR MANY YEARS, mere mention of his name caused quaking terror throughout the scientific wrestling world. His clawhold was a vicious, lethal weapon he used with effective frequency. And then, the transformation. No longer a villain, but a good guy. What sort of difficulties has this posed for him? How has he handled it. The man is Blackjack Mulligan.

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY
PETER KING

- Q: Welcome, Blackjack, glad to have a chance to talk.
- A: Thanks, I've been looking forward to this.
- Q: Let's get right to things. Recently, you gave up the ways of rulebreaking and there's been a lot of speculation as to why. Could you go into that?
- A: There were two big reasons why I turned. First was the

influence and inspiration of Andre the Giant. When I saw that he could be big and tough and still not use illegal tactics,

“

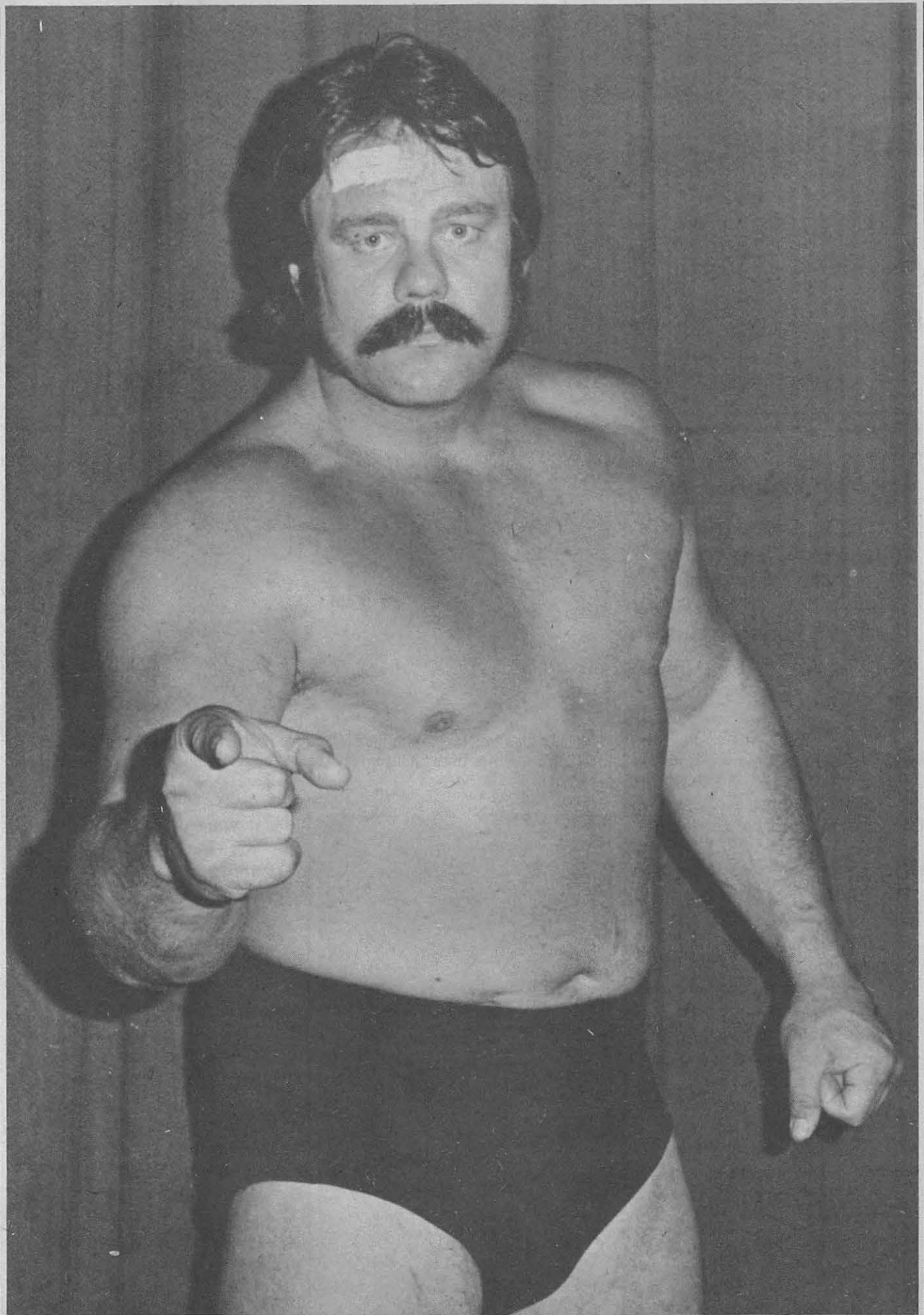
Since I turned to scientific wrestling, my life has been a living hell. All I ever hear is that some nut has put a bounty on my head.

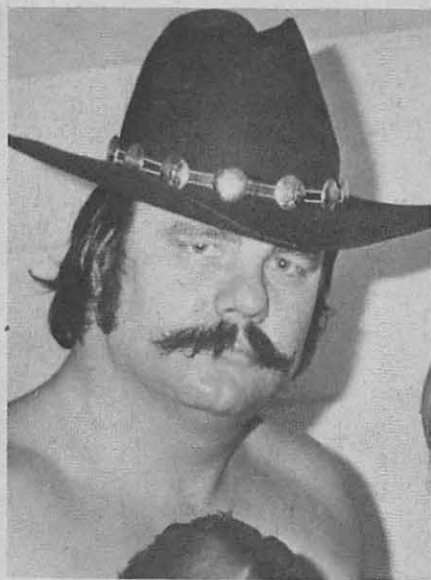
”

that kinda turned my head around. And then there was the treachery of guys like Flair and Valentine. Dudes like that made me see that to call them my friends was ridiculous.

- Q: Your decision has provoked a lot of criticism.

- A: Oh? (chuckles). Since I turned to scientific wrestling, my new life has been a living hell. All I ever hear is that some nut has put a bounty on my head. Would you want to know there's ten grand dangling over your skull?
- Q: Why do you think they've done that?
- A: 'Cause they're nuts.
- Q: No, really.
- A: I'm serious. But you want solid reasons, don't you?
- Q: Yes, because their reactions are incredibly vicious.
- A: Well, I . . .
- Q: I don't mean to interrupt, but I think settling one persistent rumor would be useful. Some say you know secrets about these men that could destroy their careers.
- A: And if I knew them, you think I'd tell you?
- Q: Do you?
- A: Rumors, rumors (shrugs and smiles vaguely). Don't believe





“

**You think I'd go through
all this grief just to spy?
For who? For Flair?
That killer. Who? For
Lanza? My so-called
friend?"**

”

all them rumors.

Q: Should we disbelieve them?

A: Next question.

Q: I get the hint.

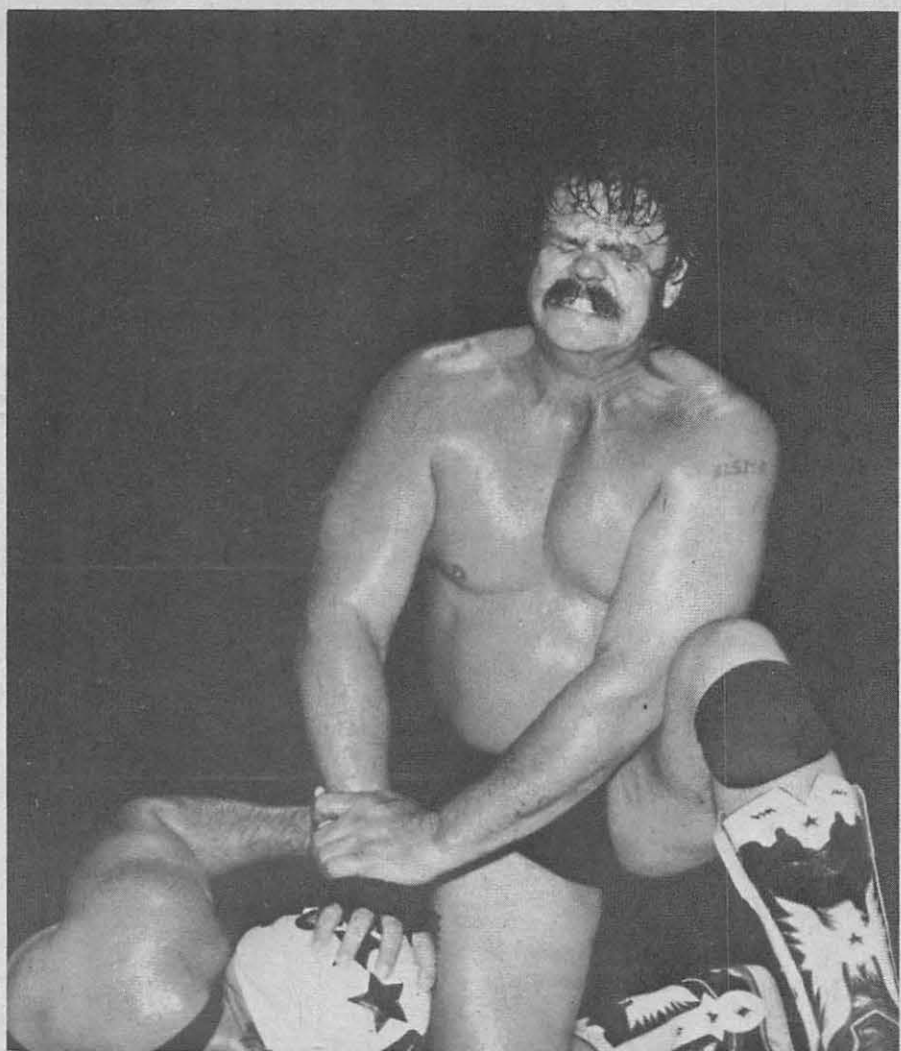
A: Back to your original question. Guys like Flair just look for an excuse to destroy someone. It ain't that I may know something, but that they have this sick philosophy that once a rulebreaker, always a rulebreaker. They don't care how much they hurt a friend. They think they should never reform.

Q: But have you really reformed?

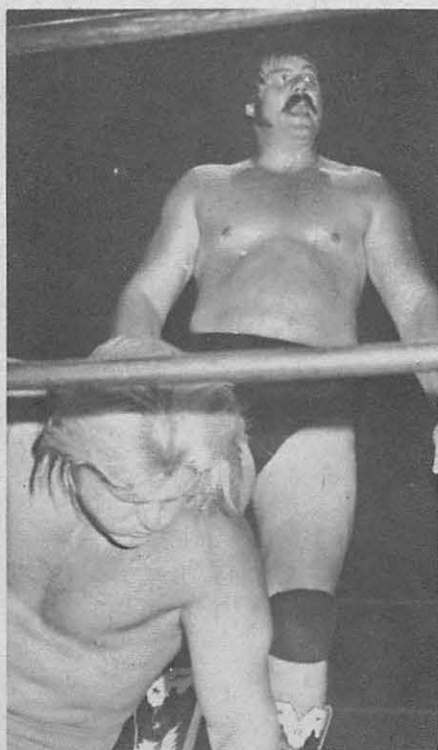
A: No, my style is the same. Just a little different methods, that's all.

Q: Let's talk about your clawhold.

A: The best in the business. Hey, I know I sound egotistical, but



Mulligan's clawhold takes its toll on his former friend, the masked Superstar (above). Greg Valentine tries to catch his breath (below) by scurrying to the ropes as Mulligan stalks him.



if you got somethin' impressive, let the people know about it, huh? I've worked long and hard on this and I'm proud of it. Ain't boasting, just acknowledging a fact.

Q: Getting back to the transformation, do . . .

A: What else?

Q: Does this subject bother you?

A: Gets a little tiring.

Q: Then maybe you won't like this question.

A: Worst I could do is give you a clawhold (pretends to look angry).

Q: Are you spying for rulebreakers?

A: (Laughs). You think I'd go through all this grief just to spy? For who? For Flair? That killer. Who? For Lanza, my



It's claw vs. claw as Mulligan tangles with another former friend, the hated German terror, Baron Von Raschke. Mulligan admits that his new life is something that will take quite some time to adjust to.

so-called friend?

Q: You and Lanza were once a very successful, treacherous tag team. Now Lanza has been quoted as saying you need psychiatric help.

A: I don't listen to what he says.

Q: Come on, Blackjack, admit it, it does bother you.

A: Just irritates me. I'd like to put all that garbage behind me and concentrate on my future.

Q: But can you?

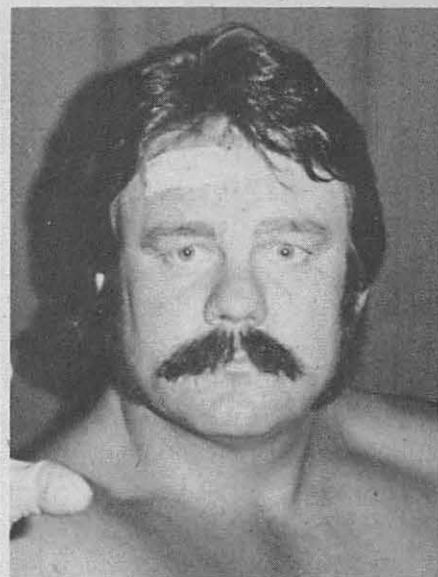
A: What does that mean?

Q: Can you concentrate on the future with all these bounties and threats against your life?

A: Yeah, because when you look around at the dudes trying to collect 'em, you see how they're mostly cowards. So they don't bother me. It's, to be honest, people like you who keep questioning my motives that bugs me.

Q: These are valid questions.

A: I know, I got a little hot, I'm sorry.



“

I'm not sure whether I want to continue wrestling solo or form a tag team.”

”

Q: What does the future hold for Blackjack Mulligan?

A: Depends. I'm not sure whether I want to continue wrestling solo or form a tag team.

Q: What sort of partner would you want.

A: Well, after my prior experiences (wry grin), I'd like someone trustworthy.

Q: Someone tough, a potential brawler, or a finesse wrestler?

A: I'm not certain. Again, someone's character would be more important at this stage. Again, I'm not really sure I'd want a partner.

Q: Are you optimistic about the future?

A: Always have been. When you're good, there's no reason not to be optimistic. □

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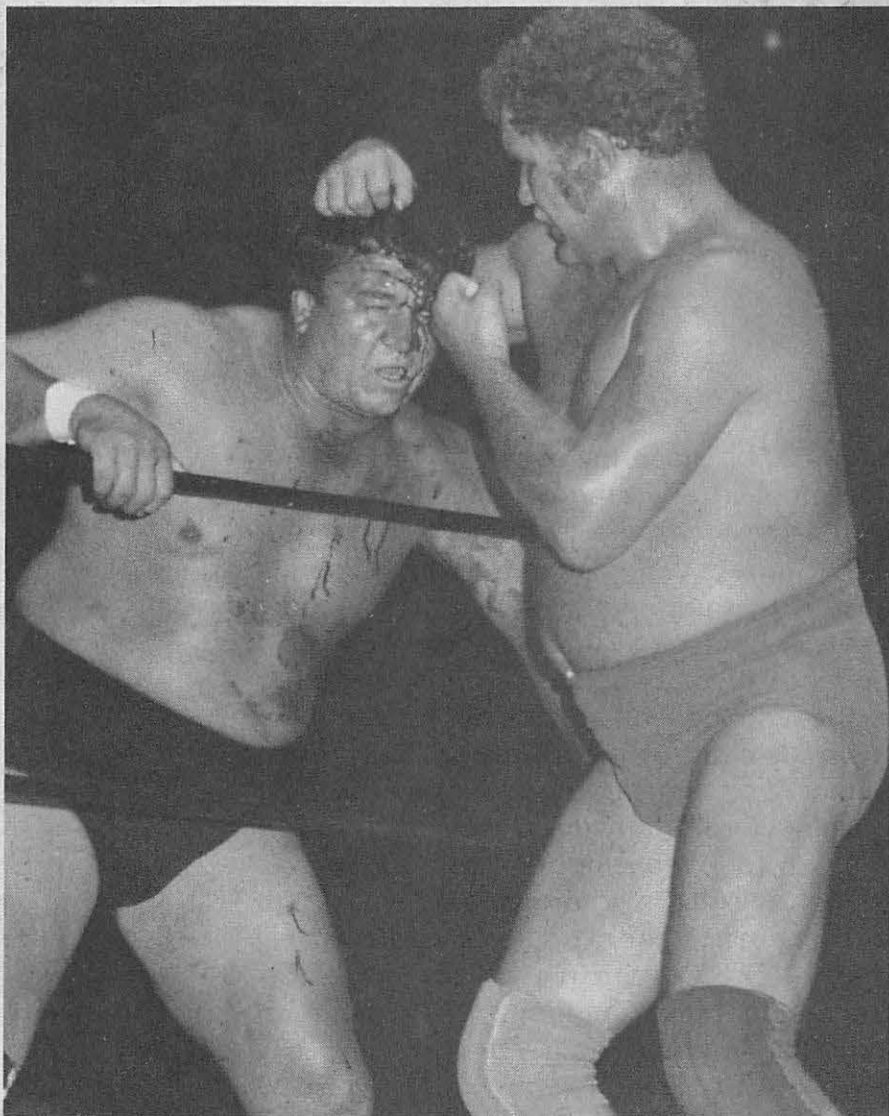
Young Steven Farhood was graduated from journalism school at the top of his class. He has just joined the staff of **INSIDE WRESTLING** as an associate editor. However, after covering his first wrestling match for us, he has learned there are some things even journalism schools can't prepare you for

By Steven Farhood

WAS I NERVOUS covering my first wrestling card? Hell, I'm shaking now, and I'm only *writing* my first story. A couple of months out of journalism school and here I am writing about a match I'll probably never forget. If there are errors in this story, please forgive me. Just thinking about that Race-McDaniel match, and my participation in it makes me hit the wrong keys on my typewriter.

When my inspiration and guiding light, Matt Brock, told me, "Kid, we're gonna give you a big first assignment, don't blow it. Go out and cover the Harley Race-Wahoo McDaniel NWA title match," I was stunned. I had figured my first match would be between two preliminary wrestlers. There would be little pressure, no blood, and easy impartiality. I couldn't have been more wrong.

Arriving at the arena, my stomach was jammed with butterflies and my heart was



somewhere near my tongue. I was escorted to my ringside seat by an usher. I was so
(Continued on page 52)

Wahoo McDaniel and NWA champion Harley Race in a memorable title match. McDaniel held an advantage (opposite) but Race used a pencil to bloody the Indian and regain control (above).

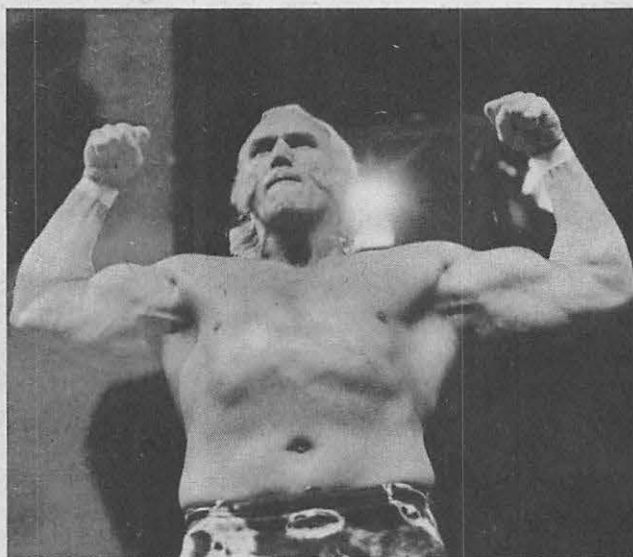
REPORTER COST L THE NWA TITLE!



Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

BOSTON: Those icy eyes still flicker with contempt at anything decent in wrestling. Don't know why I ever thought Superstar Billy Graham would change. Maybe I detect a vein of humanity within that throbbing heart of hate. Graham conducted a clinic on how to inflict crippling injuries the other night. Stopped by to talk to him and he tossed a chair at me. Same Ol' Billy. Even with those antics, there was something missing. Fire? Intensity? Undoubtedly losing the belt took more out of him than anyone thought. Will be interesting to see what components comprise his cunning character. Cowardice or courage for Superstar Billy Graham? I'm betting on courage. Ah, hate me if you want.

MEMPHIS: New AWA city was baptized by a fierce match. Nick Bockwinkel, one of my least favorite people, defending his belt against Jerry Lawler. Lawler's one of those men who scampers to a point just below the top of the mountain, only to be denied the belt time after time. He expressed frustration while manifesting a savage determination. His performance bordered on brilliant, and this veteran behind the typewriter isn't given to such adjectives too often. Something must be done about retaining titles on disqualifications. It's used, no, abused by men like Bockwinkel who are about to lose their belts and get themselves disqualified. It mars the great sport.

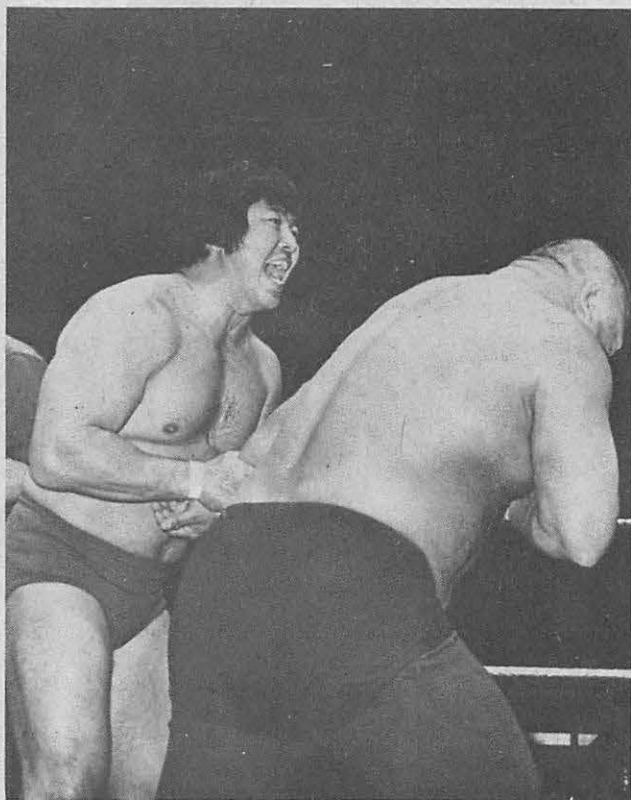


SUPERSTAR GRAHAM

HOUSTON: Certainly one of the physical wonders of the world deserves repeated accolades. Throughout an intriguing career, Andre the Giant has absorbed praise with typical gentility and grace. No pun intended, but it hasn't gone to his head. Such flattery incenses a man like Harley Race, a man who feels he has yet to receive the complete acceptance of the wrestling community, despite a successful reign as champion. One wonders who Race was wrestling against that night. Was it really Andre? Or the skeptics who deny him the praise. He insists words are meaningless, a feeling contradicted by the constant hurt in those dark eyes.

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

SAN FRANCISCO: Even the name arouses visions of pastoral mountains, rolling waves, deep blue skies. Dean Ho. And the accomplishments suggest more. Ex-WWWF tag team champ with Tony Garea. Now one of the Bay Area's top grapplers. Had dinner with Dean and he told me how he misses wrestling with Garea. Says he loves



DEAN HO

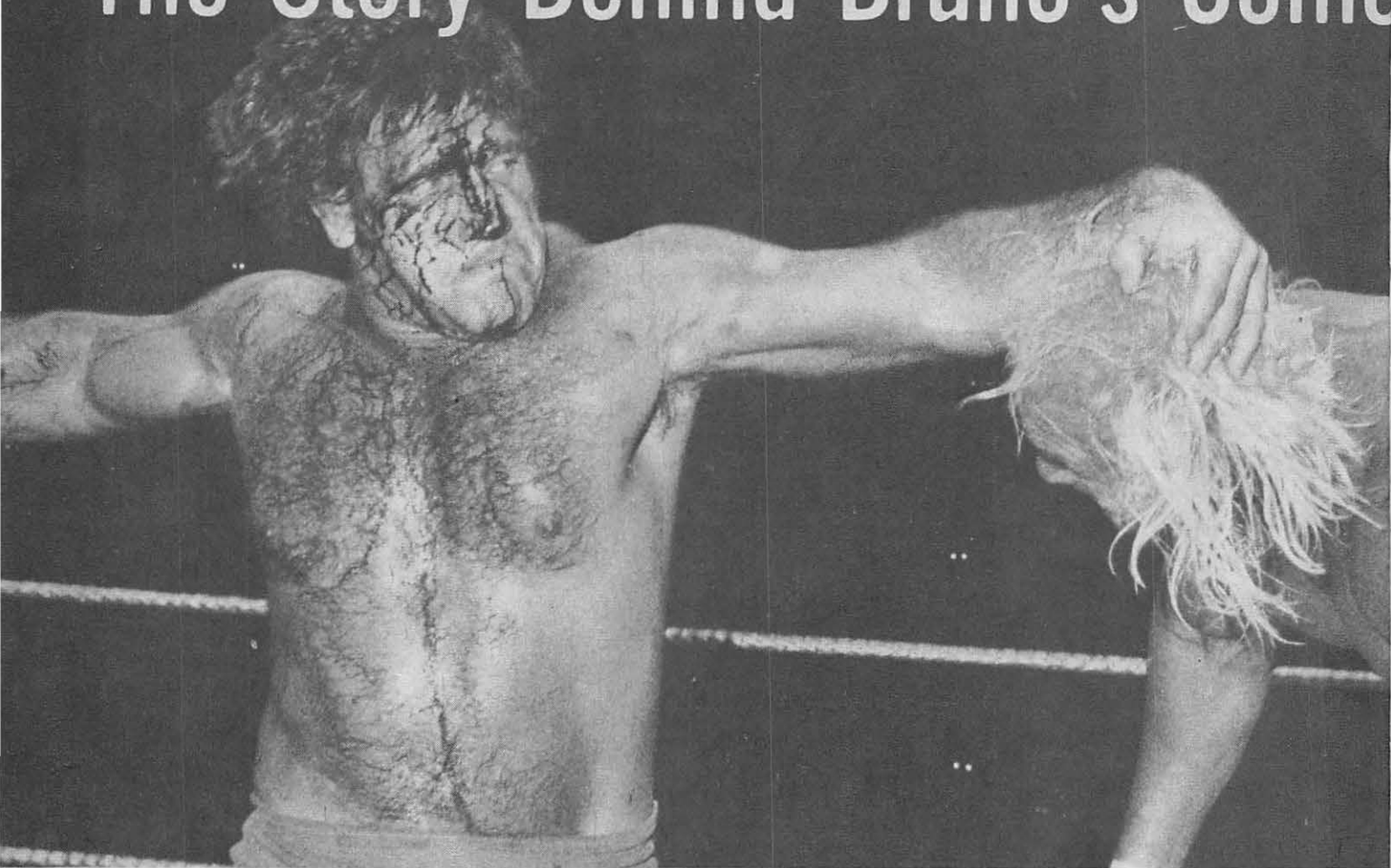
the San Francisco area, enjoys the atmosphere, people, fellow wrestlers. Still, a trace of nostalgia permeates his tone and mists his eyes. Can't deny the longing for the WWWF area. He and Tony still talk once a month, share reflections of the shifting wrestling scene. Always a pleasure to sit down and talk with a polite, knowledgeable person like Dean Ho.



JAY YOUNGBLOOD

RALEIGH: What a quaint town. Too bad all my old girlfriends are married. Used to know a few girls. Disillusioning when you hear they're grandmothers. Speaking of younger items, had an opportunity to see an outstanding young wrestler by the name of Jay Youngblood. Pupil of Wahoo McDaniel. Also an American Indian. Kid has fine form, surprising polish, vast array of moves. And an essential ingredient. Character. Knowing Wahoo, that doesn't surprise me. No way Wahoo would impart any of his secrets to a potential rulebreaker. The product is a fine young man. And fine young grappler. NWA needs more men like Youngblood as a counter-balance to fiends like Flair and Valentine. Nuff said on those two. Put Youngblood down as a potential champ. Another Brock prediction. □

The Story Behind Bruno's Come



The matches between Bruno and Graham have been both bloody (above) and scientific (below) at times.



"I'VE RETURNED DESTROYED SUPERSTAR GRAHAM"

SIMPLY THE GREATEST wrestling champion in recent memory, Bruno Sammartino, recently retired, is coming back. Wrestling awaits his return with outstretched arms and open hearts. But why is this living

legend, having already reached the peak of an illustrious career, returning to the demanding, savage sport that he loves so much? What haunting memories are nagging at his mind? What drives this great man to attempt

back:

IED TO ROY AHAM!"

such a risky comeback?

The answer is simple but devastating. Superstar Billy Graham. Yes, the blond Arizonian strong man, the cruel and torturous grappler, and the former WWWF champion is the

Through the months of retirement, one thought gnawed at Bruno Sammartino's spirit: Superstar Billy Graham is still riding roughshod over the sport. Finally, despite the pleas of those closest to him, Bruno has decided to do something about Graham's reprehensible reign of terror

sole reason Bruno is returning to the squared circle.

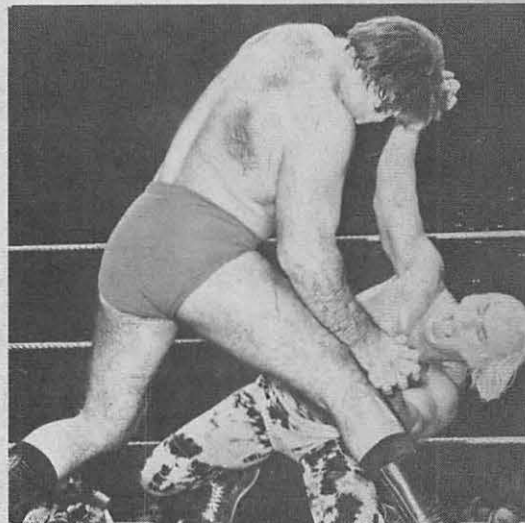
The night that drives Bruno mad with rage is still fresh in our minds. In front of more than 20,000 fans at Madison Square Garden, the great reign of WWWF champion Bruno Sammartino ends, as arch-rival Superstar Graham defeats the Italian in the middle of the ring. Veteran spectators felt nauseous, vendors stopped selling hot dogs, and wrestlers stared wide-eyed in disbelief. "Is nothing sacred?" the wrestling establishment wondered.

However the fact was plain enough. Bruno was no longer number one. His seat at the head of the class had been taken by another younger, mightier rival. Retirement soon followed.

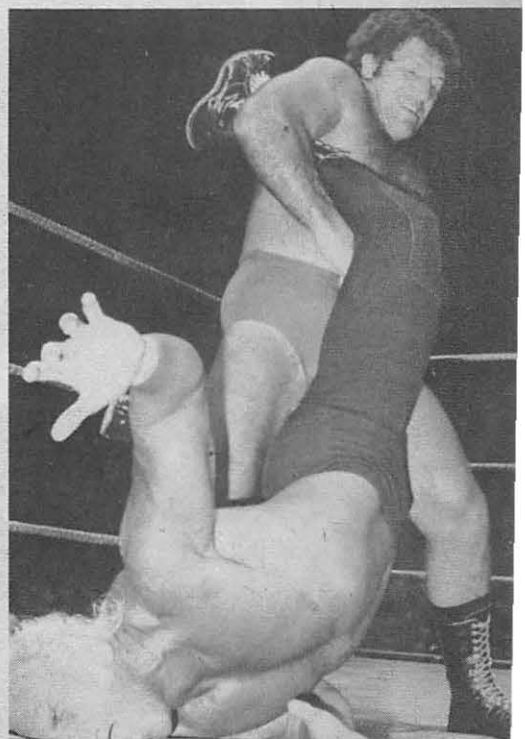
"Living with myself after the loss to Graham was difficult, especially after it set in," Bruno said. "The first few days weren't too bad. I kept busy and many friends consoled me throughout the day and night. But after I had some time to be alone in Pittsburgh, I began to slowly go crazy. My family means a lot to me, but I never fully appreciated the feeling of having that wonderful belt around my waist until I saw it around the disgusting body of Graham.

When I lost my belt back in the early seventies, I was hurt, but the feeling was different. I was still relatively young and I realized that many opportunities still awaited me. But to lose the

(Continued on page 62)



A test of strength sees Bruno win (above). Bruno with his famous "Boston Crab" (below). Sammartino plans to make Graham pay for stealing the WWWF title from him.



MIST COVERS DUSTY'S warm eyes, though tears do not fall. Hands clench, fingers twist, though a fist is not formed.

For Dusty Rhodes, the anguish and betrayal goes far beyond that which would make one cry. It is more a pained puzzlement which confronts the American

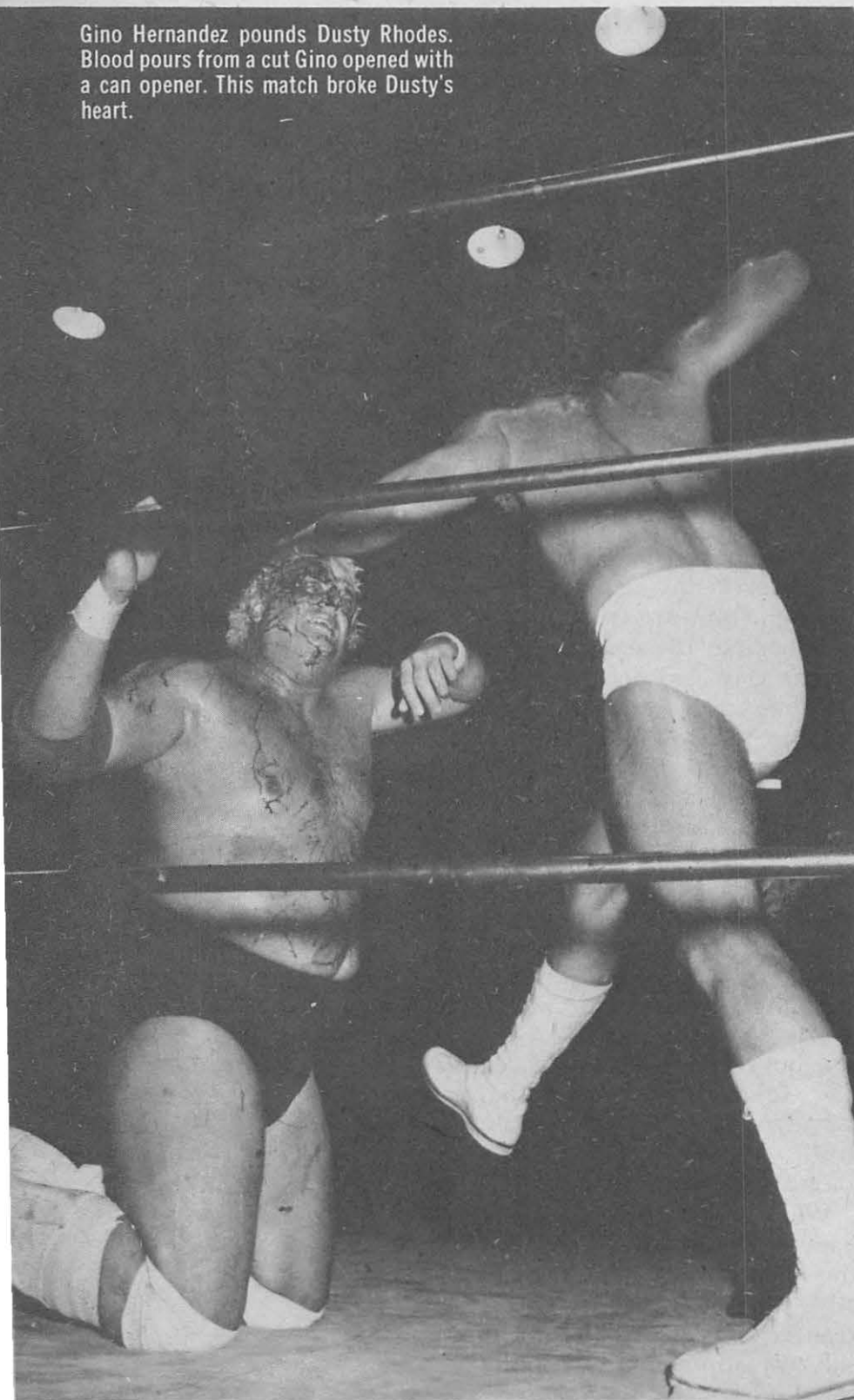
Dream. A confusion caused by treachery. A betrayal initiated by a man Dusty once called friend.

"He was a real nice kid then. He had just started. He came up to me and, like a lot of young guys looking for some help in breaking into business, wanted some practice and some polish.

"We hit it off real swell. Both of us worked well together and we became good friends. I thought I'd done some real good. I thought I'd brought a good person into wrestling and gotten a talented, scientific wrestler to start off straight.

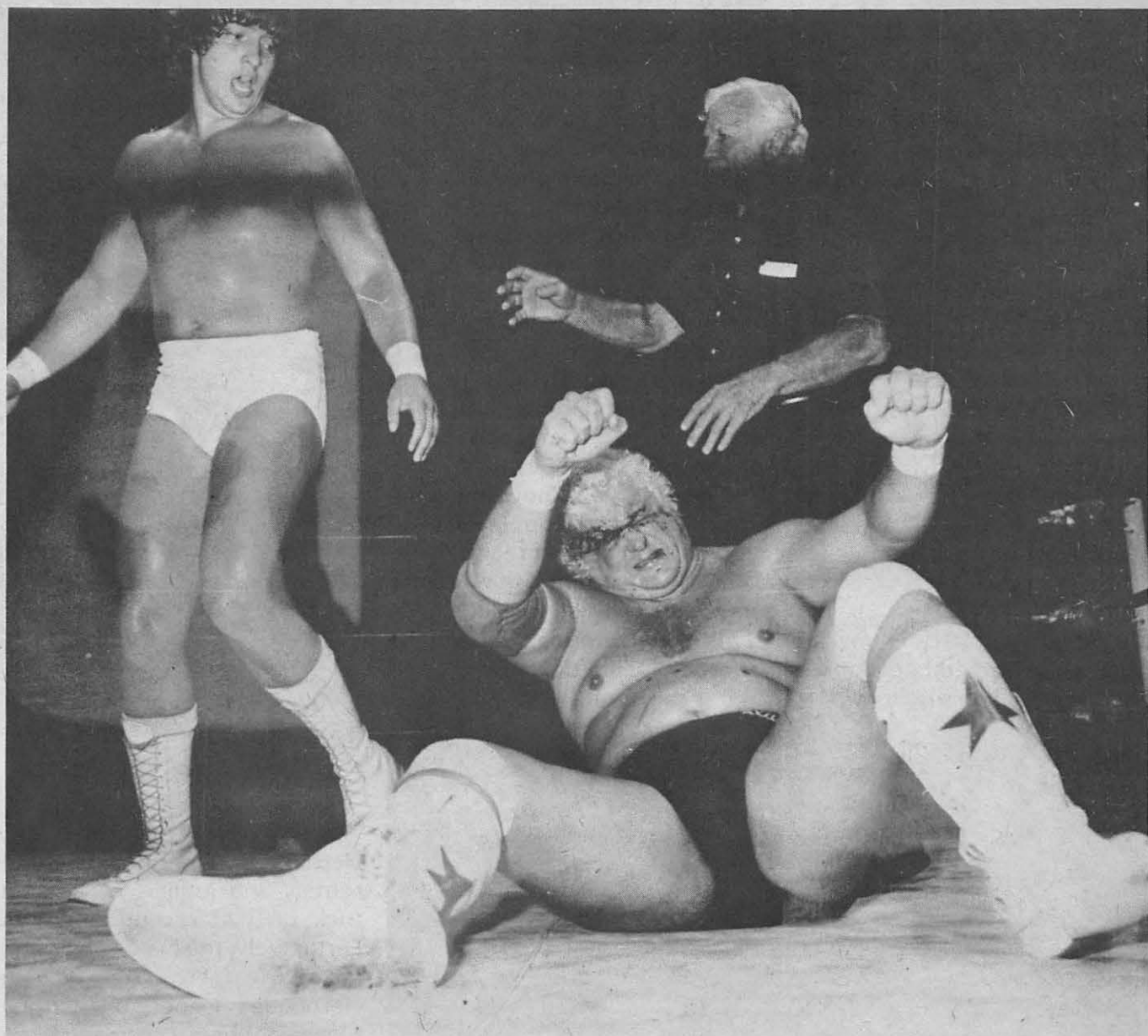
"And then I heard stories

Gino Hernandez pounds Dusty Rhodes. Blood pours from a cut Gino opened with a can opener. This match broke Dusty's heart.



In happier days, Dusty Rhodes helped Gino Hernandez become a professional wrestler. Today, Hernandez has turned on every principle Rhodes holds dear. Dusty was forced to wrestle Gino. There can be sorrow in victory as well as defeat

THE THA DUS CRY



MATCH T MADE TY RHODES

Referee Danny McShain orders Hernandez to stop the dirty tactics and wrestle against Dusty instead of brawling. But things have already gone too far.

PHOTOS BY JIM CALDWELL

about him and what he was doing in Texas, our homeland. I heard that he had turned rulebreaker. I refused to believe it.

"And then I got that call. It was a promoter saying he wanted to line me up a fine match. I asked who my opponent was. He told me the name. I still wouldn't

believe it so I gave the guy a call."

Rhodes paused to allow his emotions to level off. He bit his lip and continued.

"I got on the phone and he just

laughs at me and makes nasty remarks. I, I couldn't believe who I was talking to. But I said I'd wrestle him. I wouldn't let him get away with this.

"No matter how much it hurts."

Gino Hernandez. A man Rhodes once called friend. A man Rhodes once thought of as a comrade.

Now he was a rulebreaker. Now he was an enemy.

"Who do I owe loyalty to?" sneered Hernandez. "I owe nothin' to nobody, least of all Rhodes. I called him lots of times and asked him if maybe we could team up. But no, he's too big for that and he was always real mean to me.

"American Dream my ear. He's an overrated blimp and it'll do me great pleasure to wipe the

floor with him."

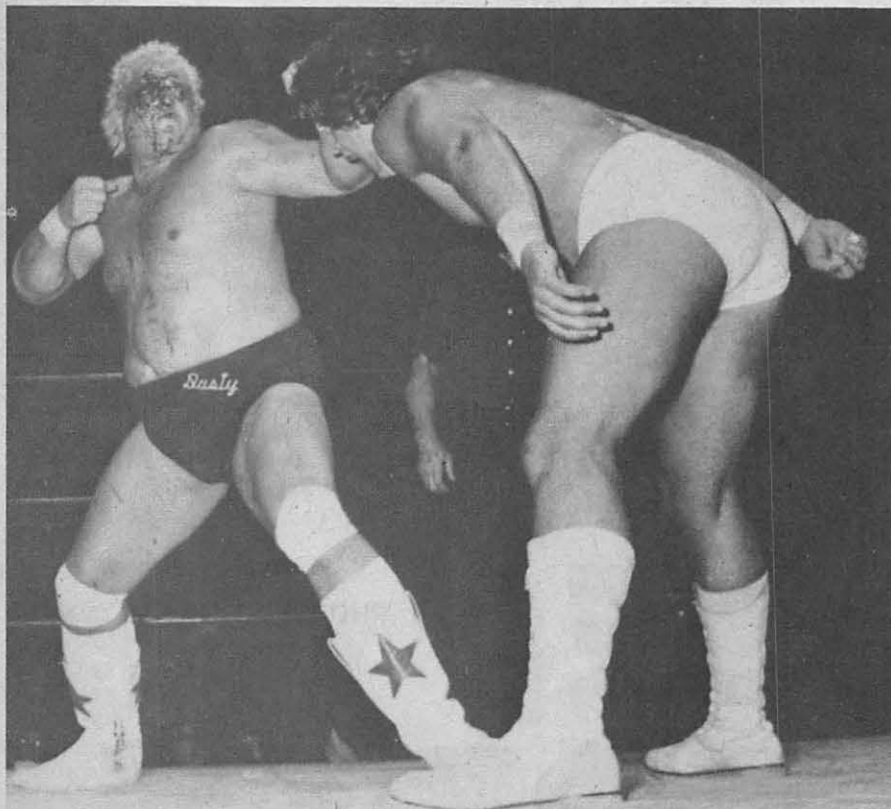
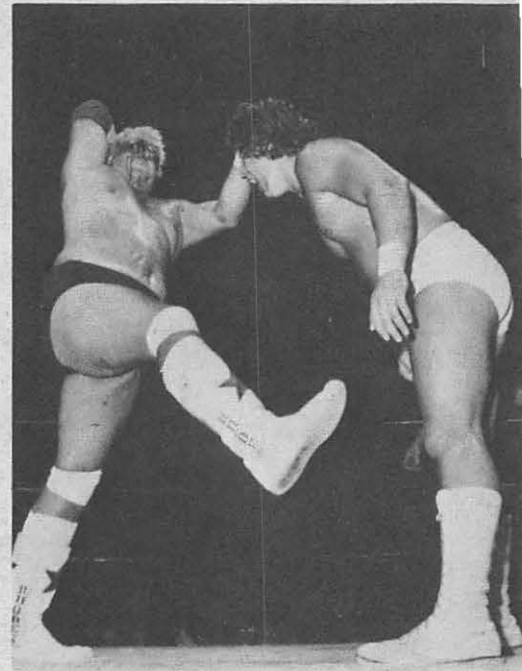
There were no civilized restraints in this match. Pure and simple, it was a classic grudge confrontation, each gladiator seeking to both physically and emotionally destroy his foe.

They almost succeeded.

To roars and hisses of disapproval, Hernandez squirmed away from a Rhodes maneuver and used an excruciating illegal tactic. Rhodes found himself trapped between Hernandez's thick hands and the ropes.

"Maybe, you know, on some sort of sub-conscious level, I had a feeling I couldn't really go all-out and hurt him. He was once my friend," Dusty recalled.

In one shattering moment, the gentle feelings vanished and Rhodes counterattacked.



Dusty has had all he can take from Hernandez and begins to retaliate with brute force. It is a shame that Hernandez disappointed Dusty and also his fans by turning to the ways of a rulebreaker.

"I went blank for a minute."

From that moment on, Hernandez was forced to retreat and utilize every foul trick he had recently learned. Fortunately, the match ended on a disqualification when Hernandez leaped out of the ring, brought in a chair and flung it at Rhodes.

"I shoulda won and it shouldn't have been stopped," yelled Hernandez. "Rhodes is bad for wrestling. All he ever gave me was bad advice. He told me how to wrestle all wrong. It took some fair-minded rulebreakers to show me the light. It's those guys I owe everything to. Not Dusty Rhodes."

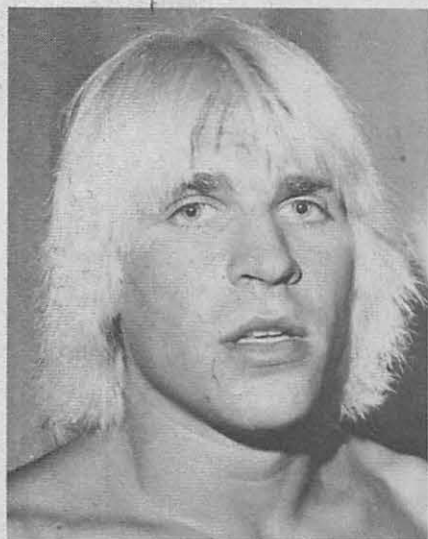
Dusty sat for a very long time in the dimming light of the dressing room. A towel was draped over his motionless shoulders. His head was lowered, his eyes half-shut. A heavy sigh. The fingers formed a fist. Tears streamed down the cheeks of Dusty Rhodes. □

INSIDE WRESTLING

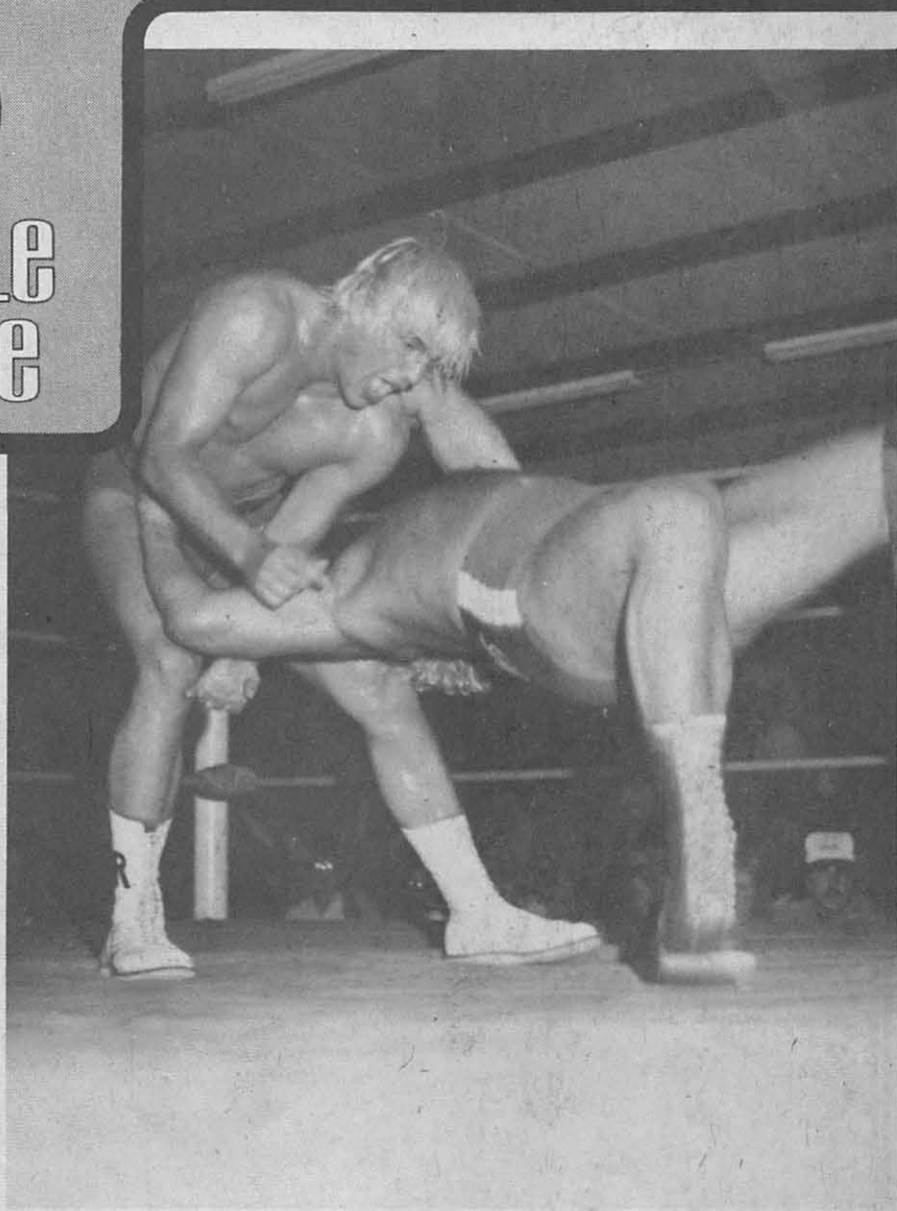
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capsule profile

TOMMY RICH



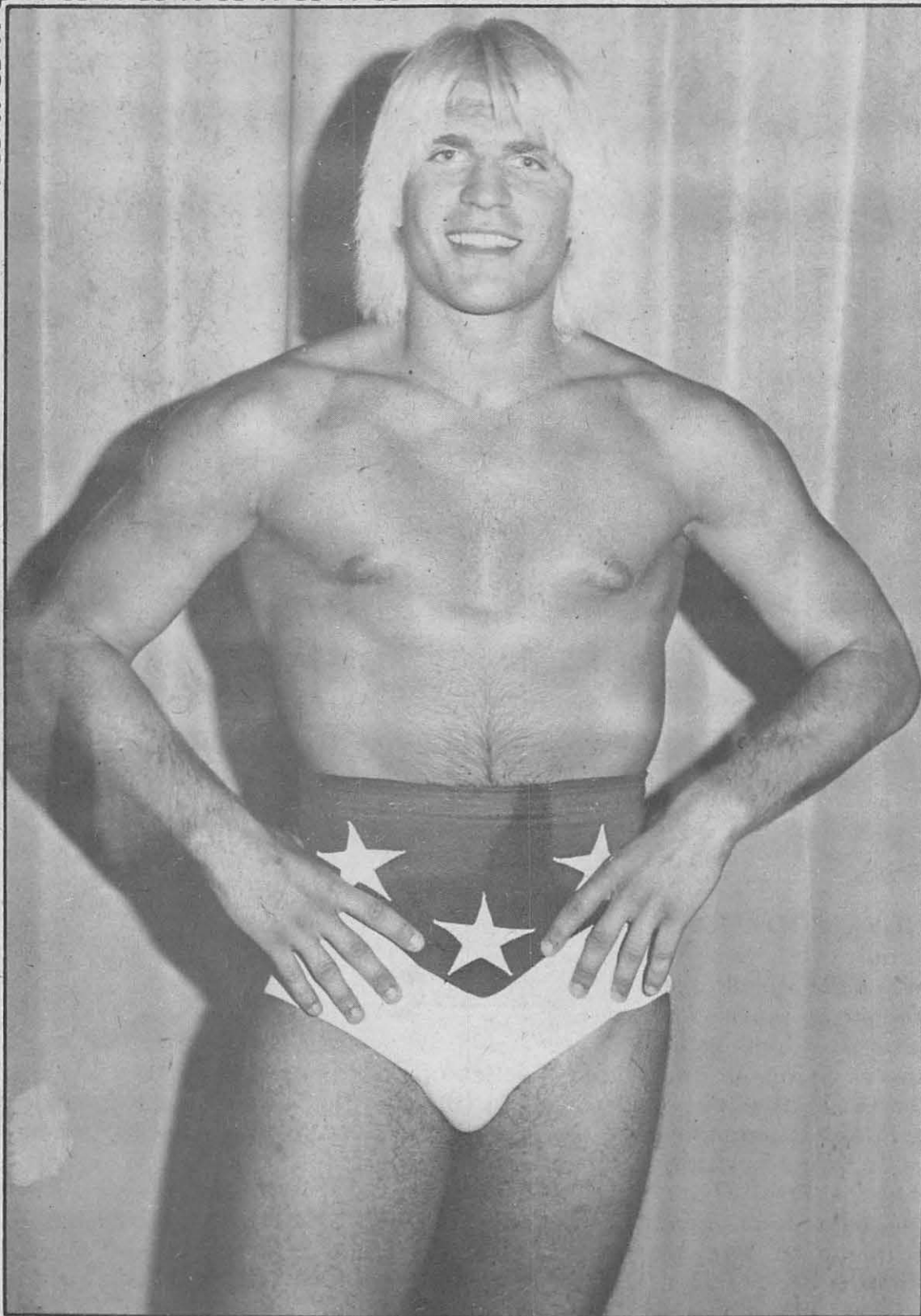
STURDY GOOD LOOKS and quick boyish grin has won him the affection of fans throughout Georgia . . . All experts label him one of wrestling's rising young stars (*"I don't think about it because I don't want added pressure"*) . . . Puts down any rulebreaker tactics (*"That's for those who don't have enough talent to wrestle scientifically"*) . . . Has imported an invulnerable set of morals into his wrestling philosophy (*"Success is meaningless unless you play by the rules"*) . . . Encoun-



tered a series of shattering betrayals by alleged friends in the scientific wrestling community (*"I didn't think they'd sacrifice me to the rulebreakers"*) . . . At present, favorite maneuver is the dreaded Boston Crab (*"Just seems the most natural to me"*) . . . Wrestling experience is largely confined to Georgia area (*"Love that state. Greatest people*

around") . . . In certain circles has been dubbed the next Bruno Sammartino . . . Could use an experienced handler like Arnold Skoaland . . . Claims his worst moment was wrestling The Sheik (*"I was surprised I got out alive"*) . . . Has toyed with the notion of wrestling in tag team (*"So delicate. You have to find just the right man to team with"*). □

CAPSULE PROFILE PIN-UP



TOMMY RICH

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Each day, out of the thousands of letters we receive, hundreds of them are from fans asking the whereabouts of their favorite wrestler. In this special column, we will try to answer the questions you ask the most!

MOONDOG MAYNE

A tragedy has befallen professional wrestling. Long one of the West Coast's finest wrestlers, Mayne was killed in an automobile accident. This shocking end to the man's life has stunned all of us who knew and respected him.



CRUSHER BLACKWELL

For many years, Blackwell's primary target has been the Carolinas and the NWA. Tales of Blackwell's antics are legendary. Four hundred pounds and an exponent of the dropkick, Blackwell has now shifted to the WWWF, where he's being guided by the Grand Wizard.

GINO HERNANDEZ

Yet another fine member of the scientific wrestling community has given in to the seductive promises of rulebreaking. Hernandez's change, which occurred in Texas rings, will sadden many fans who remember him as a fine sportsman.



MIL MASCARAS

Mascaras has embarked on a strenuous and exciting tour of South American wrestling arenas. The muscular Mascaras has won the prestigious Chilean heavyweight title. Mil has won even greater numbers of fans down there. The man is honored wherever he goes. □

INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters,
And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

World Wide Wrestling Federation



Champion:
BOB BACKLUND



1—ERNIE LADD

American Wrestling Association

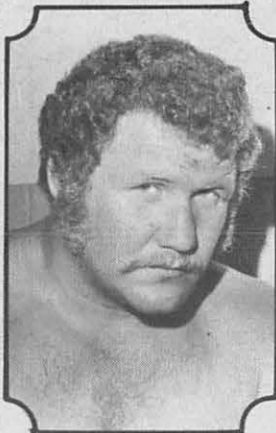


Champion:
NICK BOCKWINKLE



1—VERNE GAGNE

National Wrestling Alliance



Champion:
HARLEY RACE



1—DUSTY RHODES

Most Popular Wrestlers



1—DUSTY RHODES



2—ANDRE
THE GIANT

Most Hated Wrestlers

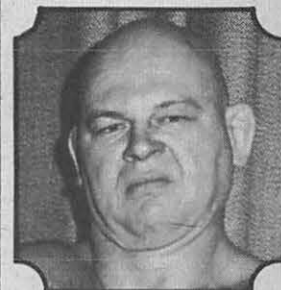


1—VICTOR RIVERA



2—RIC FLAIR

Tag Teams



1—VALENTINE &
VON RASCHKE

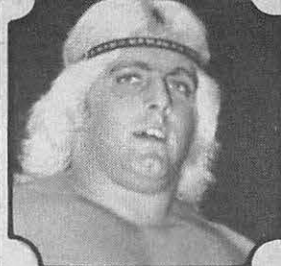




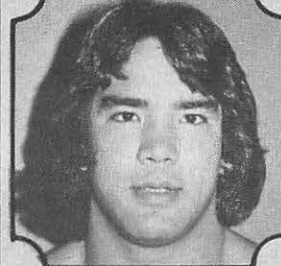
2—IVAN KOLOFF



2—BILLY ROBINSON



2—RIC FLAIR



3—RICK
STEAMBOAT



3—KEN PATERA



2—THE
LUMBERJACKS



3—DUSTY RHODES



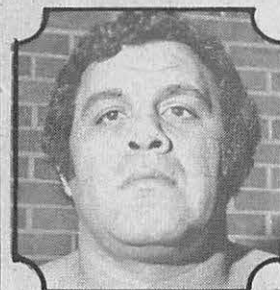
3—RAY STEVENS



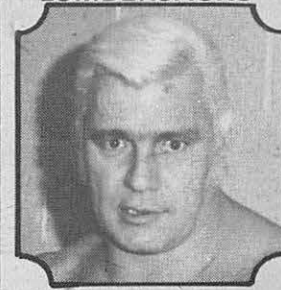
3—WAHOO
McDANIEL



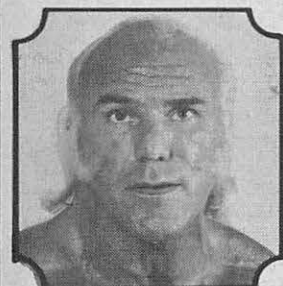
4—DINO BRAVO



4—ANGELO MOSCA



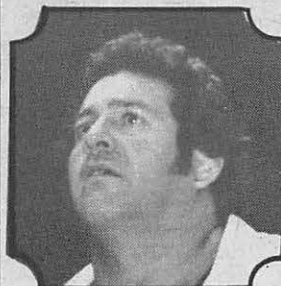
3—PAT PATTERSON
& RAY STEVENS



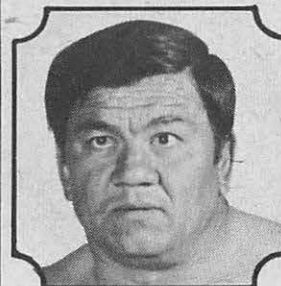
4—SUPERSTAR
BILLY GRAHAM



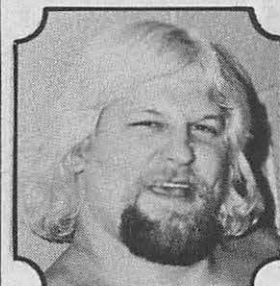
4—GREG GAGNE



4—KEN PATERA



5—WAHOO
McDANIEL



5—STAN HANSEN



4—GREG GAGNE &
JIM BRUNZELL

5—VICTOR RIVERA
6—DINO BRAVO
7—SPIROS ARION
8—IVAN PUTSKI
9—LUKE GRAHAM
10—CRUSHER
BLACKWELL

5—SUPER
DESTROYER II
6—JIM BRUNZELL
7—PAT PATTERSON
8—JERRY LAWLER
9—LARRY HENNIG
10—MIGHTY IGOR

5—RICK
STEAMBOAT
6—JACK BRISCO
7—DORY FUNK JR.
8—THE SPOILER
9—TERRY FUNK
10—ANGELO MOSCA

6—MR. WRESTLING
II
7—BOB BACKLUND
8—IVAN PUTSKI
9—ROCKY
JOHNSON
10—BLACKJACK
MULLIGAN

6—ERNIE LADD
7—THE SPOILER
8—NICK
BOCKWINKLE
9—THE ASSASSIN
10—SUPER
DESTROYER II

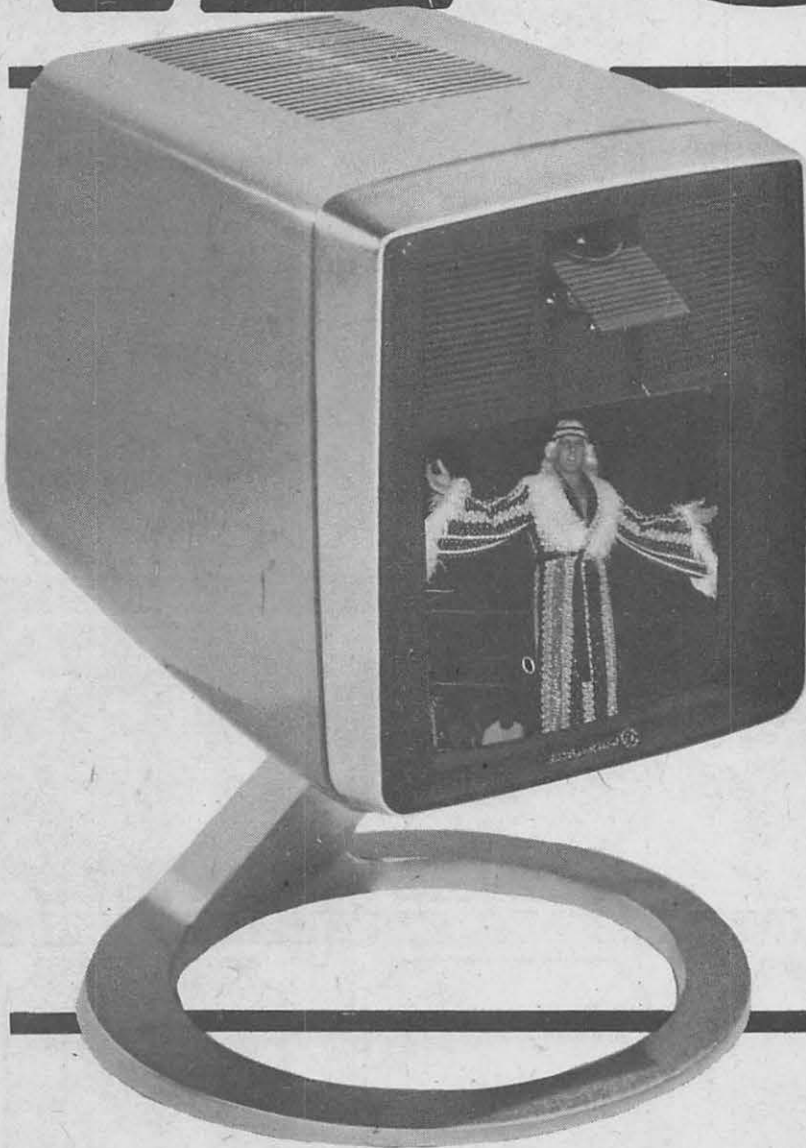
5—PAUL JONES &
RICK STEAMBOAT
6—JACK & JERRY
BRISCO
7—KEVIN & DAVID
VON ERICH
8—BLACKJACK
LANZA & BOB
ORTON JR.
9—TOMMY RICH &
RICK MARTEL
10—BOB BACKLUND
& PETER MAIVIA

ONE ON

(On the surface, these two men seem to share similar wrestling philosophies. It was just this very suggestion that sent Ric Flair and Harley Race into protesting rages and began their participation in this "discussion." We were able to bring Ric Flair, on vacation in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and Harley Race, in training in southern Florida, together for their fiery, face-to-face confrontation by using the picturephone.)



Harley Race—the NWA heavyweight champion. He is ready at any time to take on the challenge of Ric Flair.



Every month the telephone wires will crackle as two top grapplers rage and argue. We'll print the unedited transcript of their conversations, giving the fans a privileged glimpse at wrestlers which can be found nowhere else

RIC FLAIR:

Hey stinkweed, how ya smellin'? (Giggles)

HARLEY RACE:

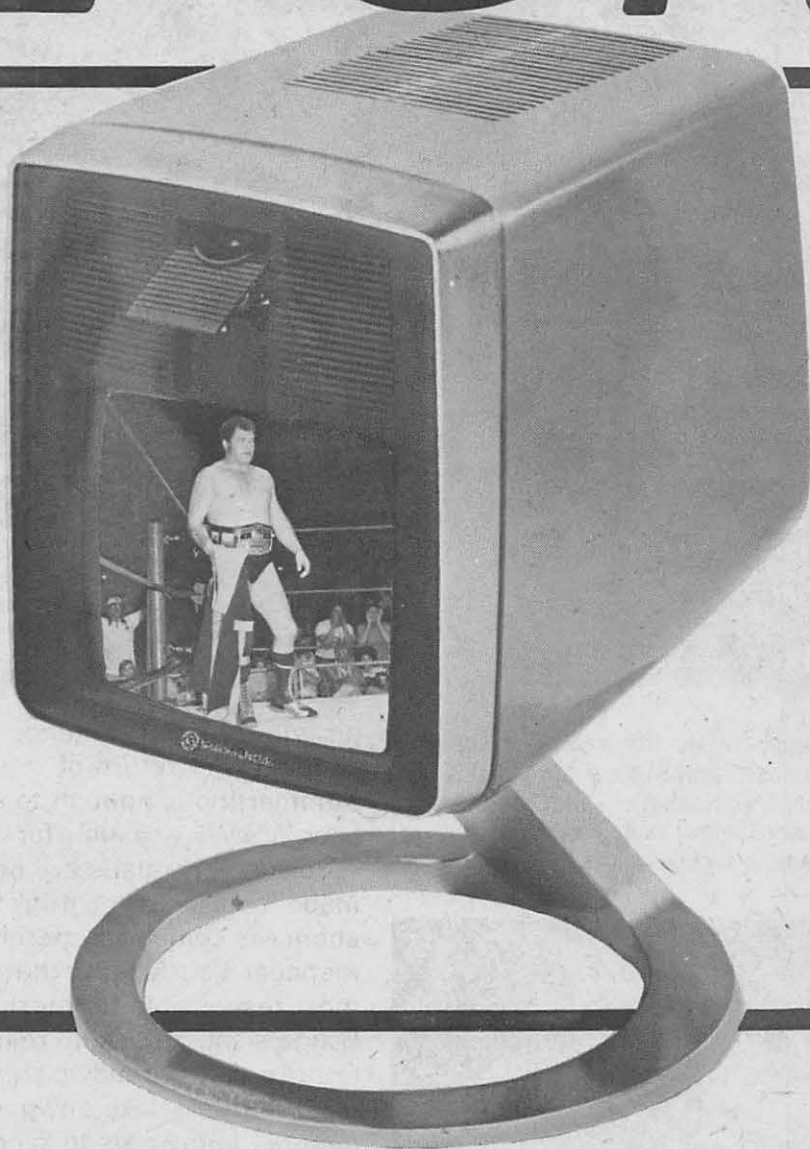
Fine since I'm not near you.

RF: When you gonna retire, old

man?

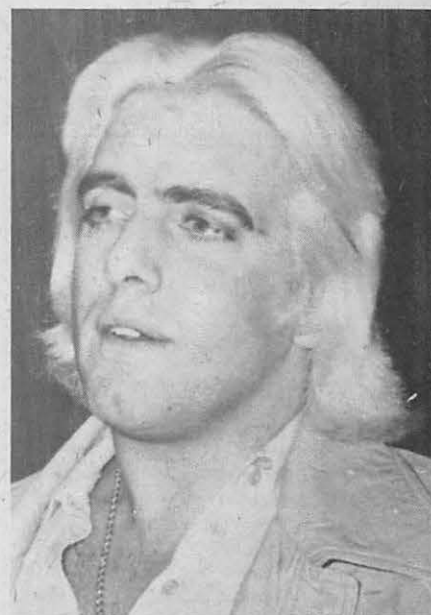
HR: This is why I wanted to do this thing. Because anyone

NONE



RF: First intelligent thing you've said.

HR: (Sighs disgustedly) Same route. I had the blond hair and I was a pretty boy. Then I decided to work for a living and not have to use those cruel tactics you brag about.



Ric Flair—a top rated NWA contender. He hopes for the day he will win the coveted title from Harley Race.

who is so simple minded as to lump a creep like this into the same category as me is, is . . .

RF: Talk, old man, I want to hear what you can say. I never said I was like you. I'm good.

HR: Good? You wouldn't know a maneuver if it hit you.

RF: That'd be more than you could ever do to me.

HR: I'd rip your skull. But I'd do it in a tough way.

RF: Tough, what do you know about tough?

HR: Hey, baby boy, I know where you're coming from. I've been through that good-lookin' route . . .

RF: You need a tough body to do that. All you can do is flop around like a dying hippo, Race. You're washed-up. The new era is comin'

HR: New era?

RF: That's right, ugly. The era of wide-shouldered gor-
(Continued on page 64)

DR. A. S. MAKES HIS PATIENTS SEVERAL INCHES TALLER

By the use of traction the doctor claims to INCREASE THE HEIGHT of his patients by SEVERAL INCHES. (From reports in recent national newspapers.)

Dr. R. L. reports contributing to the INCREASE IN HEIGHT of his patients between the ages of 18 to 25 by as much as 3 1/2". (From the annals of Physical Medicine)

"MAN GROWS to 40 and sometimes 50" according to late Curator of Physical Anthropology of the Smithsonian Institute. Some facts recently confirmed by Washington Doctor.

"The Influence of Exercise on Growth" revealed by U.S. Surgeon. (From the Journal of Experimental Medicine) A controlled group experiment.

"GAINS IN HEIGHT and weight as a result of experiments on boys from 12 to 17." Studies in Physical Development and Posture. (From U.S. Public Health Bulletin.)

Mr. C. A. claims and testifies to HEIGHT INCREASE of 1 1/2" at age of 54.

Mr. A. S. writes to leading newspaper how father INCREASED HEIGHT by 1 1/2".

Medical literature reveals SPINAL GROWTH can be interrupted by excessive pressures and if deformity can be corrected, provided that they have not been irreversibly damaged. — GROWTH WILL RESUME. — N.Y. Academy of Medicine.

SHORT STATURED?

If you are SHORT STATURED regardless of your age or sex and want to know the facts about Short Stature and Height increase in adults and youngsters and what Science has done in this field or if you are a parent who is concerned about your child's GROWTH AND STATURE, we strongly urge you to get the three (3) volumes listed below. It could be the most important step in your life.

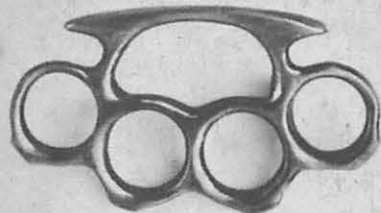
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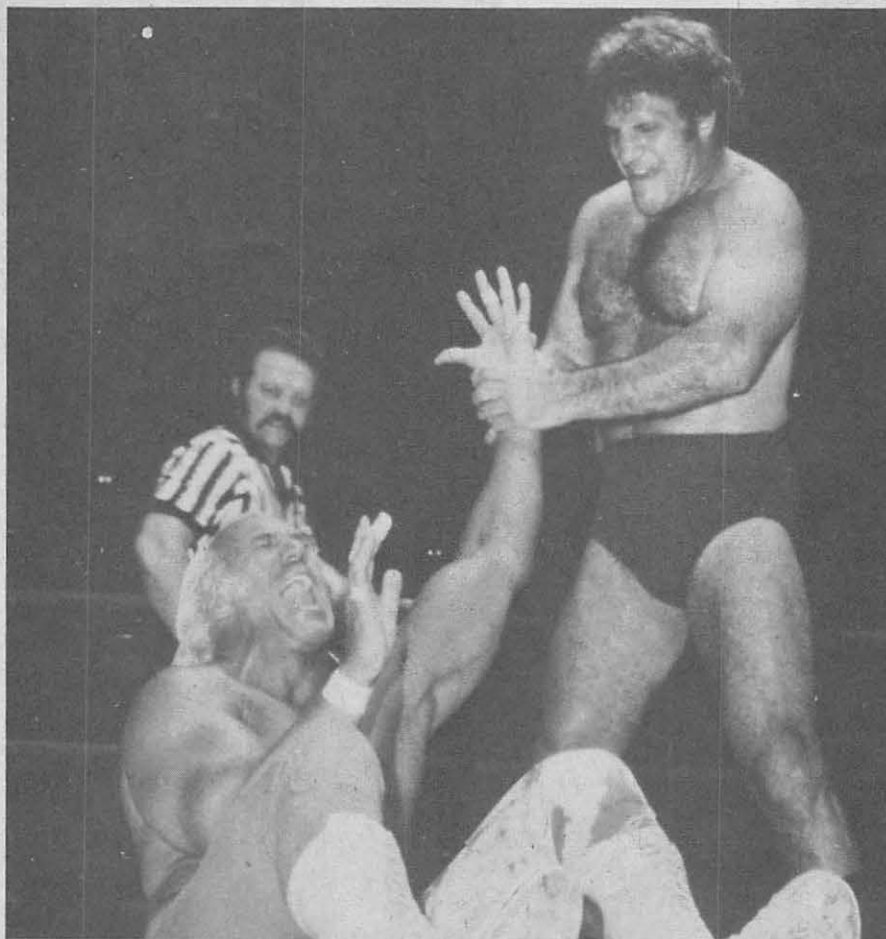
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Muscle Builders, Dept. 11880
Box 32307, Louisville, Ky. 40232

BODYSLAM & PINFALLS

(Continued from Page 8)



Bruno twists the fingers of Superstar Graham (above). We all know that is a no-no! Stan Hansen's "Lariat" does us all a favor (below) as he breaks the macaroni brain's neck.



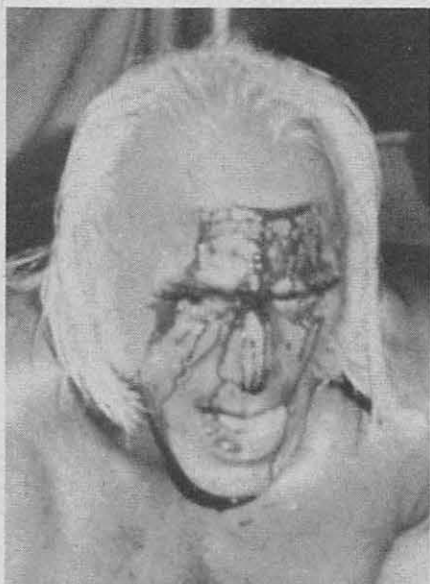
disaster of Bob Backlund, coupled with return of Sammartino is enough to set back WWWF wrestling for years.

Fortunately, plans are being made to make Bruno think twice about his comeback. Heroic manager Lou Albano, the man most responsible for making Bruno's championship reign a brutal ordeal, is readying himself for the return. Like any good general, Lou wants to keep the specifics secret, but he's happy to talk about the overall plan.

"Sammartino will never make top contender," Lou promises, "because I won't let him. The bum is sure to want to take a few easy bouts to work out the kinks from his layoff. Let him be warned now that he'll have no easy bouts. Behind every one of his opponents, whether the public sees me or not, will be

the guiding genius of Lou Albano. From the first moment Sammartino stumbles back into the ring, he'll be struggling against my strategies. He won't stand a chance.

"Bruno can't be allowed to return. When I think how he cheated and robbed, depriving real wrestlers of the title, it makes my blood boil. I finally thought we got rid of that louse once and for all. Now he's back.



Here's what Superstar looked like after Sammartino cut his forehead open with a can opener. Something must be done!

"I won't let him get control again. The Captain promises that. The sport can't tolerate that bribing garbonzo bean again. Well, it won't have to. The Captain promises. I've lined up 25 top grapplers, all willing and able to wipe Sammartino off the face of the earth. With my genius, they'll be able to. The Captain promises."

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ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 10)



Nick Bockwinkle holds the AWA heavyweight championship. He would like to get out of a contractual obligation written into the contract that both he and Rhodes signed for their upcoming battle.

wondered impatiently, glanced in the rear-view mirror, grinned and swerved onto a dusty patch of old Texas road. Tires squealed and coughed dirt onto the approaching car. I pulled off a beer can top, cradled it between my legs and took a left turn at seventy and sped down another road. I had no idea where I was going. But I sure wasn't about to let them watch me.

Traveling five miles in the growing dark, I thought I'd lost them. Think again. Blinding car lights flashed at my rear. This Lincoln came barreling on my left, parallel to my Spitfire.

The driver was Bobby Heenan. A sneer disfigured his face just as

he twisted his wheel to the right. And into my car door.

My baby Spitfire trembled and weaved over the road. I gained control, muffled an obscenity and floored the engine. I hurtled forward and veered to the right, off the road.

Suddenly it was dark. Just two menacing pairs of car lights were shattering the unending black of the Texas landscape.

My rear fender crunched. I hit my brakes and swerved to the left. God only knows how I managed it, but the car spun around, and was going in the opposite direction.

His car was not as maneuverable. I heard a screeching

sound. I looked into the mirror and saw that I was enlarging the distance between us. The speedometer hit 80. Now 90. Two lights shone in the mirror. Heenan had recovered.

My foot pressed further. One hundred miles per hour. Damn, he was gaining anyway. I pursed my lips, narrowed my eyes into two blue slits of courage and tore the Spitfire back onto the main road.



Bob Orton Jr. is one of the men who may see to it that Nick Bockwinkle gets what he wants—no matter what the cost!

There was an explosion. The car whirled around, creating a metallic whirlpool of dust and sand and air and terror. Before I blacked out, I remember racing forward across this match of dirt toward this large object. Stationary. Very big.

A damp rag gradually brought me back to consciousness. The hand administering the moisture was rough, coarse, anxious. A heavy hand slapped across my face, startling me. I was fully awake.

It was Bobby Heenan. I didn't know where I was. Two large grey shapes in the corner moved toward me. They were Nick Bockwinkle and Bob Orton Jr.

I was in trouble. (Continued next month.) ☐

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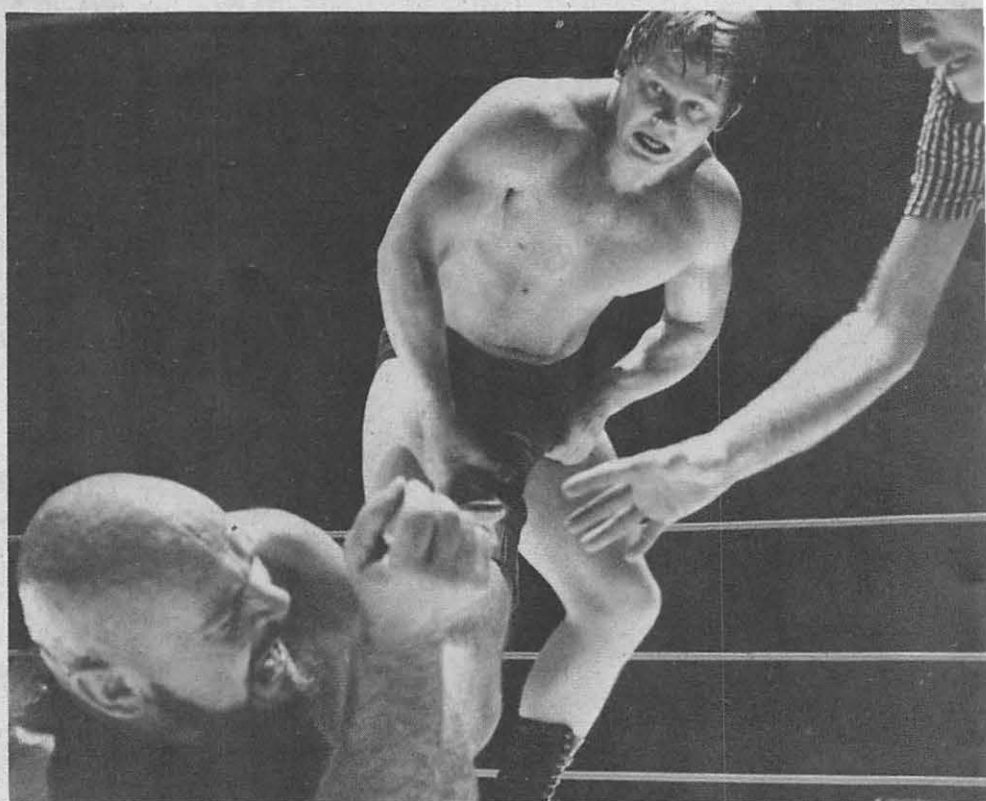
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BOB BACKLUND

(Continued from Page 23)



The referee asks Koloff if he wants to quit (above). Ken Patera has Backlund in a bearhug (below). "I heard him cry that he quit," Patera charges, "but the referee was paid off so he didn't quite hear him!"



Morgenstein burnt the negatives, but I had proof that Backlund's paying off refs. He and Skoaland. Lots of money. Come on, you ain't gonna print this."

"Whitewash, I conclude that every single attempt to analyze the despicable reign of Robert Backlund is a whitewash," accused the Grand Wizard. "I will inform you that I have been present on more than four occasions when Backlund gave money to a referee. And other favors as well."

"Now I don't like to bad-mouth anyone, you know that," said Superstar Billy Graham, "but one match, as soon as I entered the ring, the ref took \$1,000 from Backlund to make sure he'd win. And that's the truth, Brock."

what I thought I'd get.

Well, Brock, you old rummy," Albano cackled. We have a love-hate relationship. Mainly hate. "Sure the refs protect Backlund. That four-eyed creep

I expected those comments. I also expected these:

"These irresponsible attacks must end," manager Arnold Skoaland said hotly. "There's never been any proof of wrong-

doing by Backlund. These people are just jealous of Bob's successes and must resort to tactics like these to accomplish what they never can do in the ring."

"I'm sick and tired of all this," Backlund snapped. "I've defended my title against all comers. I've never ducked anyone. I don't say bad things. I've never been confronted with any facts which would support that I've paid people off. Jeez, get off my back."

And then I got the impartial side.

"Bob Backlund has never approached me with a bribe," said Jack Lotz, one of the WWWF's outstanding referees. "Surely, if anyone, whether rulebreaker or scientific wrestler, ever offered me a bribe, I would immediately report it to the league office. But Backlund never has. Have I heard these rumors before? Yes. Their truth is not something I can personally verify. He's never approached me. I can't speak for others."

The comments dissolve into empty words. The scene is familiar. Backlund in trouble. His foe is suddenly waved away. Why? Count-outs seem speeded up when a Backlund opponent is pinned. They are slowed down when it is Backlund. Why? Persistent rumors continue which contradict the man's personality. Why?

And then I came upon a disturbing opinion from a man who demanded anonymity, yet whose name is instantly recognizable. A top referee. A man troubled. A man frightened.

He said that he has had the opportunity to deal with Backlund's people in shady ways. I don't know if he was telling the truth. That's all he would say.

Me too. ☐

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WAHOO MCDANIEL

(Continued from Page 31)

nervous that I tipped him 10 dollars. He looked at me like I was berserk.

I sat down quietly, gazing around like a child with *carte blanche* in a candy store. Talk about ringside seats! I was sitting with the top wrestling journalists and photographers. I could touch the canvas of the ring from my seat! The veteran writers were helpful at first, but once

thought to myself.

Suddenly there was pandemonium breaking loose all around me. An entourage of several people was making its way towards the ring. I soon realized that a man I had been watching for years, Wahoo McDaniel, was making his grand entrance into the ring.

As he climbed through the ropes a few feet from my seat,



McDaniel and Race, both bloodied from the pencil brought into the match, collapse to the mat, exhausted, with McDaniel on top. However the referee disqualified both wrestlers for use of the illegal foreign object.

the matches were underway, I was on my own.

The preliminary matches went zooming by like a thoroughbred running in the stretch. Sweat began to drip from my face and neck. My stomach was upset and I felt sort of nauseous. "Why can't I be back at school studying in the library or covering a varsity volleyball game?" I

I gazed into his eyes. He was so confident. I had conducted an interview via telephone with him earlier in the day, and he explained to me step-by-step, how he was going to take Harley Race apart and win the NWA crown. As he took off his Indian head-dress, his eyes said it all. He was going to do it.

Then the crowd turned

their heads and began to scream. Champion Harley Race was making his way to the ring. The gallant strut and cockiness reminded me of Muhammad Ali. I quickly realized that these athletes were not immature 21-year-old volleyball players from my hometown college, but rather, seasoned professional wrestlers, the most ornery and rugged athletes of all.

Then the event that changed my life occurred. Race drew closer to the ring. He was walking slowly. There were three men surrounding him, as well as security guards and police. As he passed me, he accidentally brushed my shoulder. "Get outta my way, boy," he sneered. He thought I was a ticket-paying fan. As we bumped together, I heard something fall at my feet. It had fallen from the bottom of Race's wrestling trunks. It was a pencil. I immediately picked it up and handed it back to Race.

"Here, Mr. Race," I said. "You seemed to have dropped your pencil."

He took it from me, muttered a low "thank you," and slyly tucked it back into the bottom of his trunks. I felt like I had done something worthwhile. "Just think of all of the little children and wrestling fans that will be able to get Mr. Race's autograph because I gave him his pencil back," I thought. A smile momentarily crossed my face. It didn't last for long.

The match began and the fans were uncontrollable, screaming for Race's blood and belt. McDaniel used a better knowledge of wrestling finesse and know-how to gain a quick upper-hand in

(Continued on page 54)

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WAHOO McDANIEL

(Continued from Page 53)



Challenger McDaniel, furious after Race bloodied his face, strikes back (above). Race, bloodied but nevertheless still holding the belt, leaves the ring (below).



the match. After three minutes of action, Race was in serious trouble. Every fan in the arena anticipated the end of the reign of Harley Race.

But it wasn't meant to be. And it was my fault. Just as McDaniel was moving in for what appeared to be a

finishing maneuver, Race desperately reached into his trunks and removed a foreign object. The referee was clearly screened from Race's body and could not see what Race had done. Most of the fans were also fooled by Harley's sneaky move.

He wasted no time and scratched the pencil across the valiant McDaniel's noble face. Wahoo screamed in pain and covered his now bloody face with both hands. Race retreated and regained his strength. Once again he attacked McDaniel with the pencil and blood spouted out of Wahoo's face. But as the fans screamed for a disqualification, justice was administered. The enraged McDaniel, his face crimson, rushed at Race and somehow managed to capture the deadly pencil. He wasted no time in returning Race's unwanted autograph and

took the pencil to the champion's face. Soon Race was bleeding as badly as McDaniel. The referee signalled the timekeeper to ring the bell. The match was over and both men were disqualified. The belt still belonged to the bloody and nearly beaten Harley Race.

I felt sick again. The rule-abiding McDaniel had been in control from the outset. If Race had not brought the pencil out of his trucks, Wahoo would've won the belt. I was directly responsible.

If I had kept the pencil or left it on the ground, Race would have fought cleanly and lost. Instead he went into the squared circle with a dangerous weapon. Autographs my eye. Race brought that pencil solely to injure McDaniel. It was all my fault.

Returning to the office the next day, I was sure that I would be bawled out. Brock was sure to fire me. Instead, he was understanding.

"You did what you felt you had to do," he said, putting his arm around my shoulder. "Now go in your office and write me a story about what exactly happened."

I realized why Brock was considered the best in the business. But I also realized that I had a lot to learn about professional wrestling. Costing McDaniel the match would haunt my conscience for the rest of my life.

"Live and learn," Brock reassured me. Thank God for Matt Brock. □

(Editor's Note: Steven Farhood is the newest member of INSIDE WRESTLING'S staff of award-winning editors and reporters. His observations of the wrestling scene will appear every month in this magazine.

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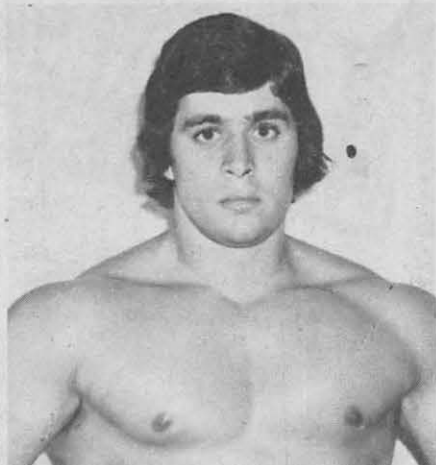
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BEHIND THE DOOR

(Continued from Page 12)



Although Dino Bravo won't admit it, he is secretly hoping to break Lou Thesz's incredible all-time mark of 142 consecutive victories attained in less than 15 minutes. After a recent 13:32 victory over Pierre the Lumberjack, I was with Dino in his dressing room. After he had showered and dressed, he took a little note pad out of his shirt pocket, along with the gold pen I gave him for Christmas last year. Thinking no reporter was watching, or even cared what he was writing, Dino drew a vertical line in the book, on a page with dozens of little lines.

Standing behind him and looking over his shoulder, I whispered, "Number 61, right?" Dino turned quickly, then smiled and said, "I should have known you would have found me out. Yeah, it's 61 and counting. I'd like that record, and I won't hide my feelings about that any longer. But geez, I'm not even half way there."

"Don't worry, Dino," I told him. "You just go out and do your thing. The victories will come without you even thinking about them."

I told him something to wrestle extra-hard for next time out, when I hold him his 61st consecutive victory in under 15 minutes put him one behind Andre the Giant for 12th place on the all-time list.

Then I said, "But really, you shouldn't think about the record so much. Each victory goes in the record books. When you get good and close, you'll be the first to find out."

"You're right, Randy," he replied. "I will not bother myself with thinking about Thesz's record any longer. He then took his little pad and threw it in the garbage pail. We talked for a few more minutes, and then I left for another town, another arena. But when I stepped out of his dressing room, I took a pad out of my attache case, opened it, and crossed out the number 60. Next to it I wrote "61." But who's counting?

Dusty Rhodes, who recently cut a record in New York, has quite a singing voice, whether you know it or not. He also is a talented composer, having written several yet unpublished songs. One song, which he made up only for his own entertainment, is about NWA champion Harley Race. When I walked into Rhodes' dressing room the other day, I heard him singing the song about Race. A few lines went something like:

*"He's got a face so ugly,
even his mother can't love.
He's got a voice that sounds
like a turtle dove.*

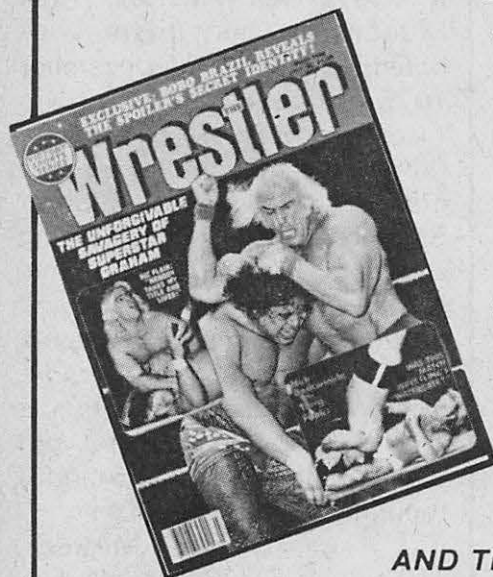
*His body is shaped like a cello case,
I'm talkin' 'bout a man they call
Harley Race."*

There are other songs about wrestlers that Dusty has written. I'll ask him to give me the lyrics so I can pass them along.

Well, it's off to the privacy of my Long Island retreat, where I can devise more low tricks to play on rulebreakers. If you can think of any good ones, let me know about them. □

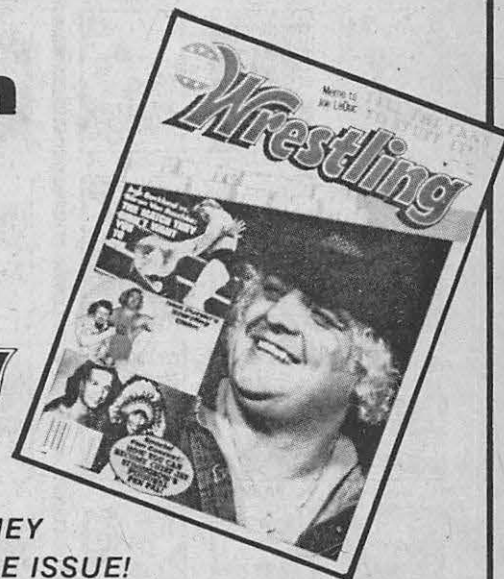
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(Continued from Page 18)

FLAIR & STEAMBOAT— NEVER!

Your article speculating that my favorite wrestler, Rick Steamboat, may team with hated Ric Flair in the December 1978 issue, ("What A Team They'd Make!") was a horrendous thought! If Flair ever got on the good side of Steamboat, he'd ruin the young superstar. Having Flair in his corner, Rick Steamboat could never rest one minute. He would have to watch his partner more closely than his opponents. It's always fun to speculate, but please, may such a frightful thought never materialize!

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It is refreshing that one fan has come to the defense of NWA champion Harley Race. Race doesn't have too many fans.

RACE A GREAT CHAMP

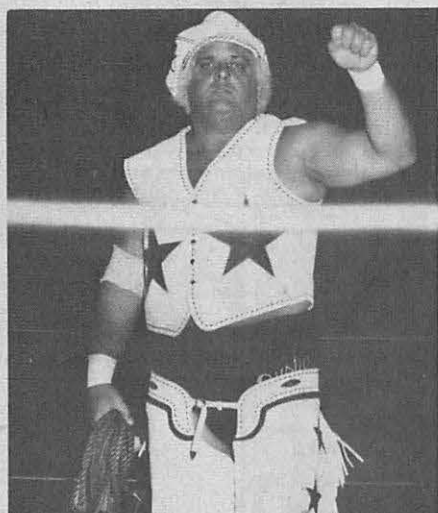
What a true champion Harley Race is! Whether one approves or loathes his actions in the ring, his valor and courage to face all comers is commendable. In your feature "News From the Wrestling Capitals" in your December 1978 issue, you highlighted Race's title defense against Ron Fuller. Fuller had his chance of a lifetime, and after the time limit had expired, Race gave him another five minutes to try and win the title. Of course Race still prevailed. A true champion!

TOMMY GIFFORD
Memphis, Tenn.

DINO HAS A FUTURE

The interview conducted by Gary Morgenstein in your December 1978 issue, ("Dino Bravo: Without A Belt, You're Nothing!") was sensational. Bravo is indeed one of the up-and-coming young wrestlers with a future bright enough to include the championship of the world. Your photos were also outstanding. I never realized how cute he was! Keep up the good interviews!

LAVERNE NIMBERGER
Pittsburgh, Pa.



The "American Dream," Dusty Rhodes now has an entire army ready to stand behind him at all times.

DUSTY'S ARMY LIVES

I think "Dusty's Army" will be the best thing to hit the wrestling scene since Ivan Putski and his "Polish Army." I'm sure all wrestling fans will support this great grappler. Dusty always does his best to please his fans by taking on men like Billy Graham, Spiros Arion, The Spoiler and Ken Patera, and he usually beats those nerds.

So I think it's time that we all got funky and joined up in the Cosmic Cowboy's Army. Dusty needs all the help we can give him, and I don't think we'll let him down. I really feel like I'm one of his "family."

BILL WELLEK
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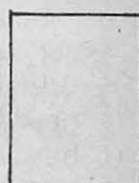
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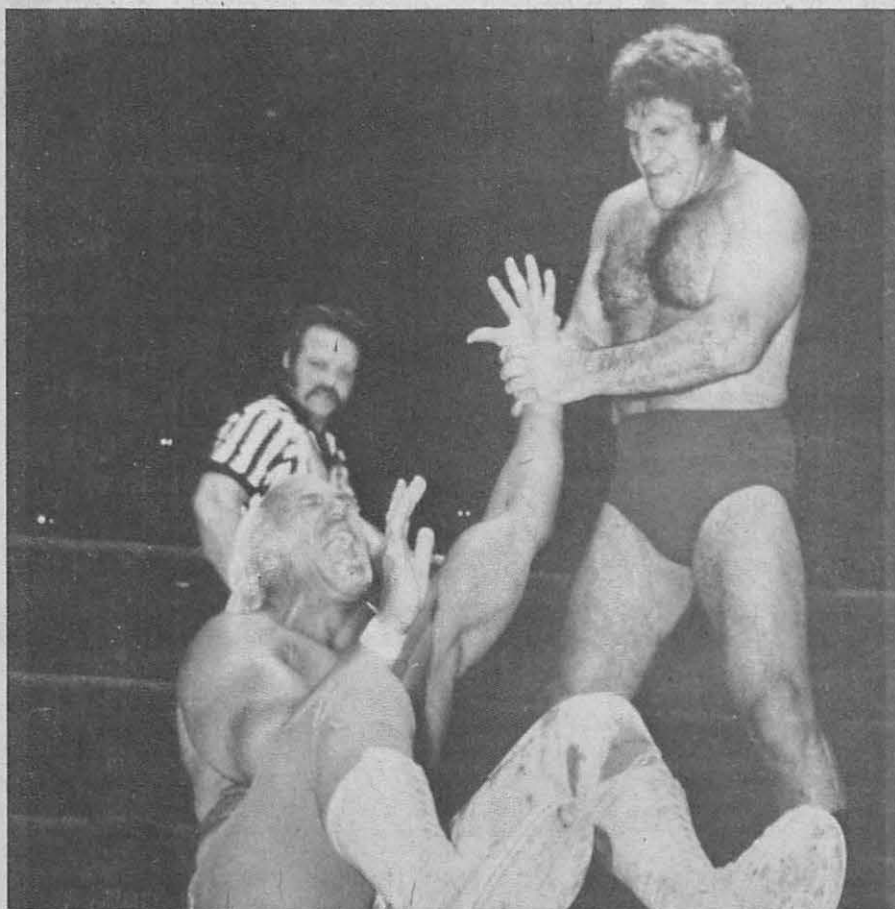
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DESTROY SUPERSTAR GRAHAM

(Continued from Page 35)

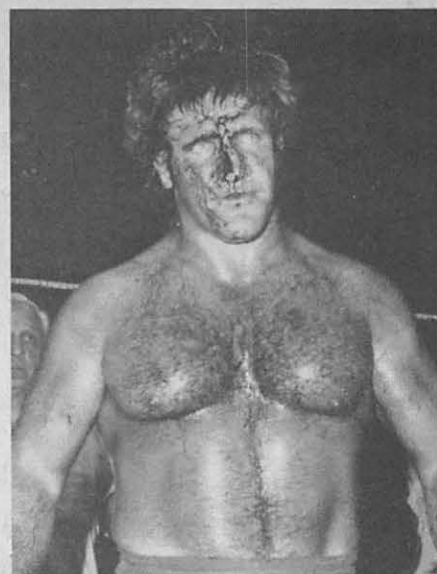


belt to the likes of Graham was the low point of my career. To see children and fans across the country idolize and respect this man because he controls the throne turned my stomach.

"In all honesty, of all the wrestlers I have ever known, Graham is the last one that I would want to be anywhere near the belt. Backlund is a fine young champion with a bright future, and all fans know that I have helped him greatly in his development. However even though Graham is dethroned, my quest for revenge continues."

His light blue eyes glare with an intense ferocity as Bruno says these words. He is clearly obsessed with erasing a bleak, dark night off his record. Whether Sammartino still has the ability, energy, stamina or speed to accomplish such a demanding

Bruno has Graham in trouble during the controversial title match (above). A bloody Bruno (above right) leaves the ring after an encounter against Graham. Bruno goes berserk (below) and viciously lashes out at Graham.



feat is a question that all of wrestling asks. The years take their toll, and Graham will be waiting, his 22 inch biceps ready to squeeze the life out of Bruno. Can Sammartino handle the constant pressure Graham is sure to apply?

"I don't even want to talk about Bruno Sammartino," a disgusted Superstar Graham said. "By beating him to a pulp, and that is what I'm going to do, I will have proven nothing. Tell me this, if your grandfather puts on a pair of boxing shorts, laces up his wrestling boots from the turn of the century and enters the ring to wrestle you, do you prove anything if you put him in the hospital? I just hope they don't come in and put me under arrest for manslaughter after I finish off that old man."

However, Graham's pompous attitude and tight confidence may be misdirected. Sammartino has always been known to get extremely psyched for crucial matches, and he has never let his fans down. One thing is certain. Whether the new phase of Bruno's ring life is a success or a failure, only his driving pride makes him try to recapture his youth. His pride and the despicable face of Superstar Billy Graham, that is. Welcome back, Bruno. It seems like yesterday once more. □

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the effect of all the calories you take in — automatically forces
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person ... those types who never seem to gain an ounce!

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with the only thing you'll ever need for LIFETIME PROTECTION
against excessive fat build-up. That's because, medical science
now offers you a proven way to neutralize all the calories in
the food you eat — gently step up your metabolism ... stimulate

VITAL NOTICE: Before starting this program, consult with
your physician to be sure you are in normal health and your
only problem is excess weight. Individuals with high blood
pressure, heart disease, diabetes, or thyroid disease should
use only as directed by a family physician and see if he
doesn't agree that this Lifetime Road to Slimness including
the few minutes of nightly toneup the doctor highly recom-
mends is by far one of the most medically sound, fully sen-
sible approaches to the problem of excess weight.



Called the Anti- Calorie Capsule Program

because that's precisely
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eating due to runaway
appetite ... helps you
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in your body ... that
steps up the rate of fat
burn-off ... and shrink
your body's fat cells,
starting the very
first day!

and "target" your body's "fat-burner" chemicals to
attack clinging pockets of fat, so you burn away excess
flab meal to meal these 3 medically proven ways:

**ONE — BECAUSE YOU CONSTANTLY NEUTRALIZE THE
EFFECT OF THE CALORIES IN THE FOOD YOU EAT,
YOU BURN AWAY STORED-UP FAT AND CONTINUE TO
GROW SLIMMER AND SLIMMER FROM MEAL TO
MEAL!** Yes, when you launch yourself on this doctor's
calorie-deficit crash-burn program you gently step up
your inner furnace! So when food enters your body,

instead of being stored as fat, it is AUTOMATICALLY converted
to burned-away energy.

**TWO — YOU GRADUALLY ACCELERATE YOUR FAT-BURNING ME-
TABOLISM** by greater caloric burn-off than intake. Meaning:
your body, without you even feeling it, unleashes a steady surge
of fat-burner chemicals directly into your system to attack stored-
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... that drains right out of your body!

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it ... so your own body burns away fat faster and faster the
more you step up your fat-burning metabolism.

**THREE — YOU COMPLETELY DEFEAT THE GREATEST SINGLE
CAUSE OF FAT BUILD-UP,** runaway appetite and overeating.
Because the moment you take this doctor's CAPSULE, ravenous
hunger disappears. Gnawing appetite is switched off ... you
lose your craving for food for hours at a time.

More significant ... when you do eat on this Doctor's
CRASH-LOSS diet and Lifetime-Slim maintenance program, since
your body completely NEUTRALIZES THE FAT-BUILDING EFFECT
OF ALL THE CALORIES IN THE FOOD YOU EAT, excess fat
simply cannot form ... stored-up body fat burned off and
melted away by the hour — and you continue to grow slimmer
instead of fatter after each meal you eat!

**DOCTOR ADVISES: USE THIS CRASH-BURN PROGRAM ONLY
WHILE YOU'RE OVERWEIGHT ... OTHERWISE YOU MIGHT
GROW TOO THIN!** Of course, there is one thing you must keep
in mind. You cannot use this CAPSULE CRASH-BURN PROGRAM
indefinitely ... otherwise, you might become overly thin.

Also, as long as you are on this ANTI-CALORIE Program you
cannot stuff and gorge yourself silly on over-rich, high-fat
foods. There is a reasonable limit on just how fast medical
science can help you safely burn away fat. BUT — and here's
the very heart of this wondrous development: Because this
thrilling ANTI-CALORIE concept not only helps you neutralize
the effect of the calories in all the food you eat ... but
ALSO puts gnawing appetite to sleep ... you simply lose
that driving urge, that maddening craze to make fattening food
the very center of your existence ... thanks to this medically
proven formula that contains the most powerful reducing aid
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by the United States Government!

Now just think what this great ANTI-FAT weapon means to
you, if all your life you've had to fight off excess pounds, battle
away inches?

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Thin", before eating ... as part of this incredible "CRASH-
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CALORIES IN THE FOOD YOU EAT! You gently raise the level
of your fat-burning metabolism ... "rev up" that inner fur-
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nature has placed in your body ... and BURN AWAY FAT.
MELT AWAY INCHES as you start to grow slimmer and slimmer
from meal to meal!

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— results you can see on your scale with your very own eyes,
the very first morning! ... yes, you must:

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LOSE up to 7 lbs. more the next 7 days

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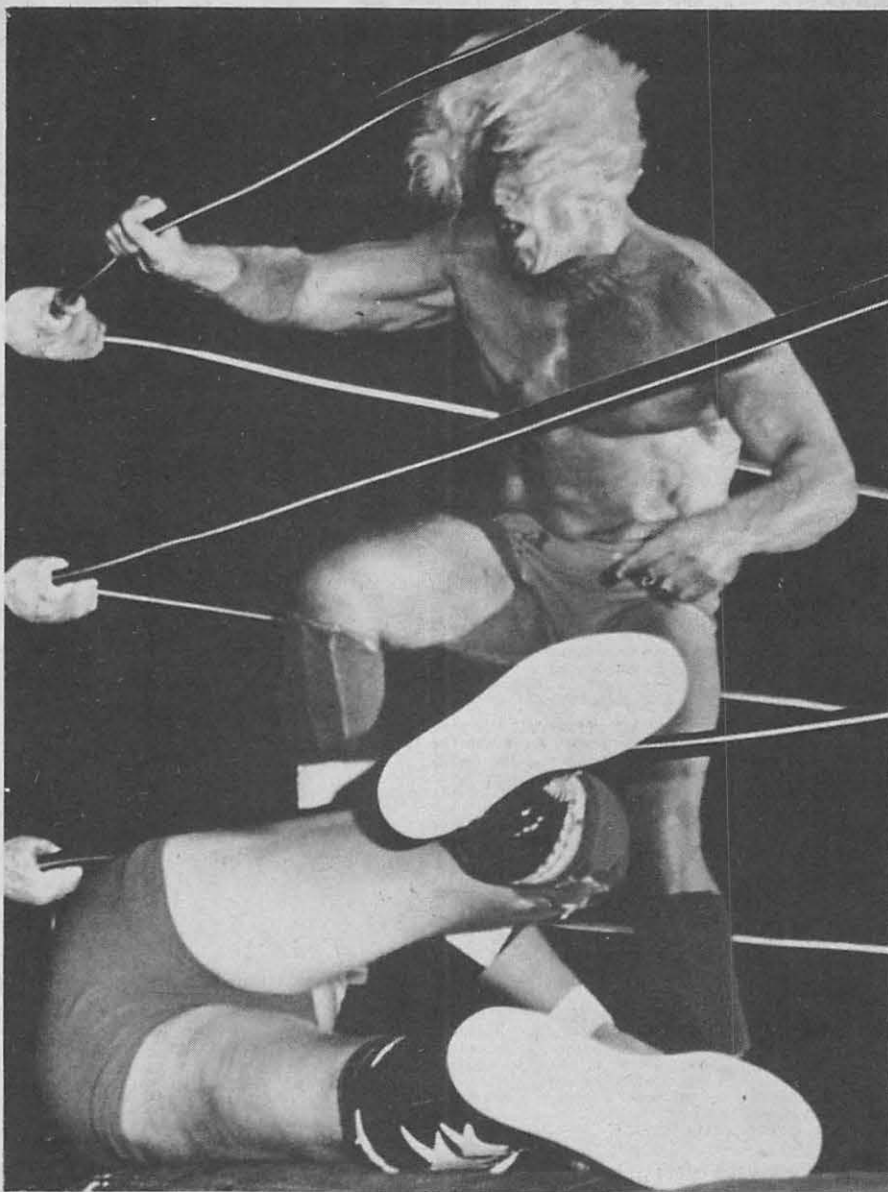
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ONE ON ONE

(Continued from Page 45)



The savagery of Ric Flair is evident as every part of his body blends together to form one big powerhouse that explodes on his opponent. Flair claims Race would not be able to take what he will dish out.

geous hunks like myself who are going to rule wrestling. Guys like me who will stop at nothing to get what we want. And what I want is your belt, sucker.

HR: You're the real rulebreaker, Flair. I'm not vicious like you.

RF: Vicious? I'm just tough.

HR: So am I and . . .

RF: You? (Loud laughter). I see how your face winces anytime someone puts a hand

on you. You ain't got the guts, man. You're washed up, admit it. Move aside. Either you're going to wrestle scientific style or you'll go all-out and leave nothin' standing. Which will it be?

HR: That's not a fair choice. And who the hell are you to make the alternatives?

RF: The future, baby. I'm where the sport is moving to.

HR: And soon you'll bring in swords, huh? The sport is for men, not cowards.

RF: Who's a coward?

HR: You are, fool. You have to resort to cowardly tricks because you won't fight like a man. You have to run out of the ring because you're afraid of getting your pretty face mused up. You don't know the first thing about wrestling, punk. You don't and those fools like Backlund don't.



A bloody Harley Race defends his title against Dusty Rhodes. Harley feels Ric will not be too hard to beat.

RF: Punk? Who you callin' a punk?

HR: You, little man. You ain't never really been in a wrestling match. You're nothin' but a cheap, low-life . . . I've lost my manners and my head. I'm sorry, I should at least be polite.

RF: Oh, the real Harley Race pops out. Can't push it back in, man. You're a rule-breaker, Race. You can't escape that. Your days are numbered. Flair is gunnin' for you and when I find you . . .

HR: You'll run out of the ring and hide. Punk! ☐

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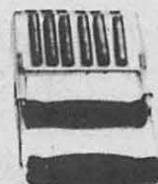
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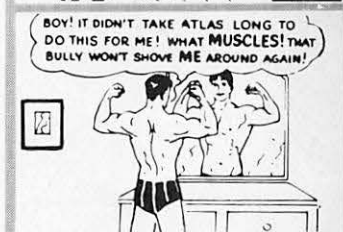


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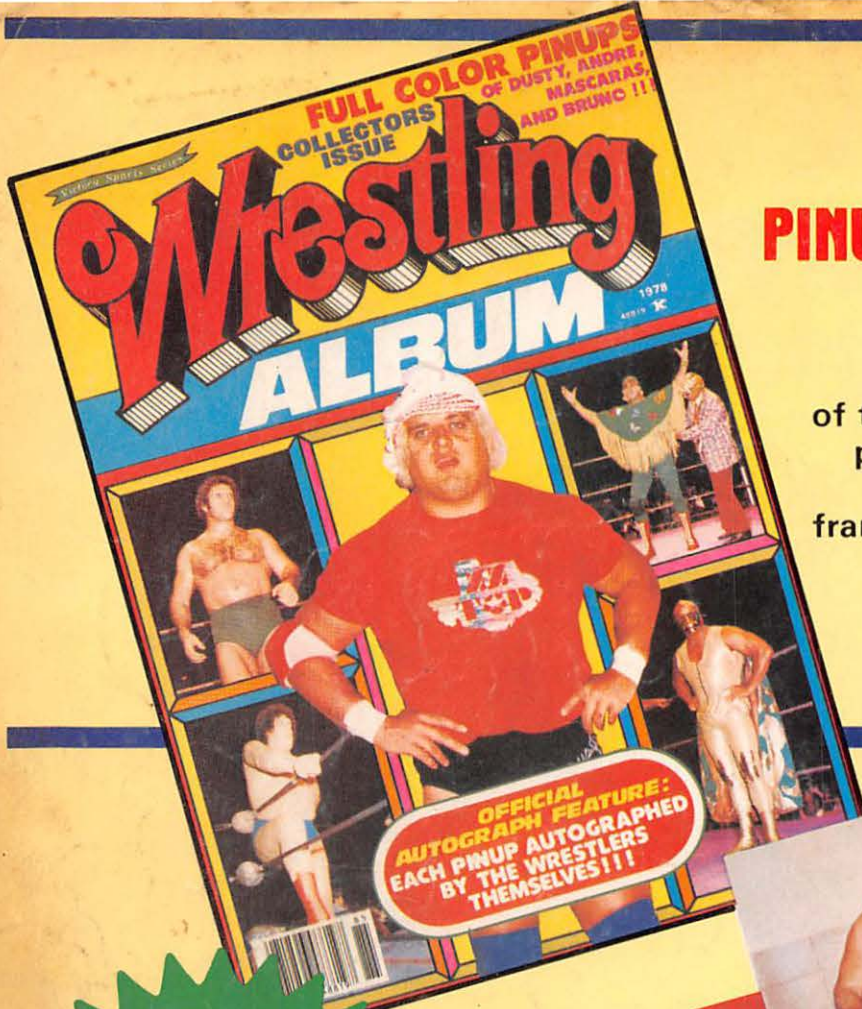
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